

Arafat to meet Delors on Nov. 9

BRUSSELS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will discuss aid to implement Palestinian self-rule when he meets European Commission President Jacques Delors on Nov. 9, a commission spokesman said Friday. Mr. Arafat, on his first visit to the headquarters of the European Community (EC) since signing a historic peace agreement with Israel last month, will be seeking to speed up EC aid. "Support for the Middle East peace process will be the main item," the spokesman said, adding Mr. Arafat will also meet EC Development Commissioner Manuel Marin. EC leaders called at a summit meeting on Friday for the mobilisation of financial resources to back the Middle East peace process. The summit also called for joint EC action to promote peace in the Middle East under the treaty's common foreign and security policy. The British Foreign Office said meanwhile it had granted a PLO request to upgrade its official status in London, including permission to fly the Palestinian flag. A Foreign Office spokesman said Britain had informed the EC of the change in a note sent two days ago.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Volume 18 Number 5448

AMMAN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1993, JUMADA ALAWAL 14, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

Taba talks shift to settlements

Shetrit hints they could be eventually dismantled

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian negotiators will ask Israel to roll back Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and remove the "biggest obstacle to peace," a top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said in an interview published Friday.

"We are demanding concessions from the Israeli government on the question of settlements in Gaza," Nabil Shaath, the head of the Palestinian delegation to talks on the Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, told the Israeli right-wing daily, Maariv.

The Palestinians will either ask Israel to make the settlers live in a single sector, or to grant them fewer "privileges" and less money to help discourage them to stay, he said.

The 5,000 settlers in Gaza were the "biggest obstacle to peace," Dr. Shaath said.

Israeli Economy Minister Shimon Shetrit said in an interview Friday it was possible Israel would dismantle some of

the settlements. "If there are settlements in (areas) densely populated with Arabs, I don't think that we can say that in a permanent solution it is our interest to keep them," he said in comments published in the English-language Jerusalem Post.

Mr. Shetrit, of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour, stressed that he was referring to the period after the interim self-rule being granted to Palestinians as part of the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said the premier objected to evacuating any settlements and that Mr. Shetrit "speaks for himself and by no means reflects the government's position or that of the prime minister."

Mr. Shetrit said that "generally speaking settlements will not be uprooted," but that thought would be given to breaking up communities in isolated areas or next to large Arab neighbourhoods, the

newspaper said. Mr. Shetrit reiterated something Mr. Rabin has also restated several times in the past week, that Israel objected to a full withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel wanted to hang onto the Jordan River Valley area, and a mountainous section of land near Bethlehem in the West Bank, Mr. Shetrit said. In all about 120,000 Israelis have settled in the occupied territories.

Settlements in Gaza and the Jericho area which will be granted autonomy over the next few months will remain under Israeli military control. Some settlers have said they would try to move back into Israel, but a main obstacle is disposing of their property.

Several newspapers suggested a new solution was on the horizon Friday, reporting that Saudi businessmen had inquired about purchasing 34 cottages under construction in the Karnei Shomron settle-

ment near Nahlin. Settlement officials did not answer their office telephones for comment.

The 18 settlements in the Gaza Strip are located throughout the region, but grouped into about three main clusters, and Israel has insisted it will keep troops in the strip to guard its settlers.

The Haaretz newspaper reported Friday that Israel will present its detailed plan for a military retreat from the Gaza Strip and Jericho to Dr. Shaath's delegation on Monday in negotiations in Taba, Egypt.

Citing Israeli and Palestinian negotiators in Taba, it said the army was to withdraw from refugee camps and areas with dense Palestinian populations first.

The withdrawal from Jericho would take place later. To avoid a "power vacuum" in these areas, Israel was hoping to come to an agreement in Taba on the modalities of deploying a Palestinian police force.

Settler abducted

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Masked Palestinians stabbed and abducted a Jewish settler in the occupied West Bank Friday, also forcing an Arab man into the car as they fled, Jewish settlers and Palestinian sources said.

The army denied initial radio reports saying the body was found in the escape vehicle near Beitin village, northeast of Ramallah.

The Jewish kidnap victim was Haim Mizrahi from the settlement of Beit El. Residents said he was a seminary student in his 30s, but no other details were immediately available.

The army confirmed the kidnapping and said it launched wide searches in the Ramallah area, about 15 kilometres north of Jerusalem. Two helicopters hovered overhead and the region was declared a closed military area.

Palestinian negotiator Ziad Abu Ziad condemned the attack on army radio and said he hoped such violence would halt.

"I am very sorry that there are those who are trying in every way to make the peace talks fail... and I hope that these people will understand and realise that all efforts of this type will not stop the process," Mr. Abu Ziad said.

The army denied an earlier report from military officials that the settler had been found dead in a car at the entrance to the village of Beitin, a few kilometres from where the abduction took place.

A large pool of blood and Jewish skull-cap marked the spot where the settler was forced into a car just hours earlier and driven off by masked Palestinians in Al Birh village, near Beit El.

The settler was seized at a shop in the village where he had gone to buy eggs after receiving a phone call from a Palestinian merchant, settler spokesman Shai Bazak said. Israeli Radio said he was apparently set up.

As soon as he entered the shop, three masked Palestinian men jumped on the settler and stabbed him before bundling him into the boot of a car, said Bazak, who lives in Beit El. No details were immediately released on the name of the settler.

Journalists were barred from the Ramallah region, where the abduction took place and where angry settlers later set fire to a Palestinian car to cries of "Rabin's a traitor."

The leader of settlements in Ramallah, Pinhas Wallerstein, charged that the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin viewed settlers as "second-class citizens who can be attacked with impunity."

The number of anti-Israeli attacks has not fallen since Israel and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an accord on Palestinian autonomy in Washington on Sept. 13, he argued.

But Mr. Rabin said last week the number of attacks had halved since the signing.



Israeli soldiers watch a Palestinian car burning which was set on fire by Jewish settlers on the road leading to the Beit El settlement Friday. Settlers also burned down an Arab house and

clashed with Israeli troops, in protest against the stabbing and kidnapping of an Israeli by masked Palestinians (AFP photo)

Officer and 3 gunmen killed in shootout near Karamah

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian army officer and three gunmen were killed in a shootout in the Jordan Valley Friday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The unidentified gunman opened fire on a military post near the Jordan Valley town of Karamah, killing an officer and wounding an unspecified number of soldiers before the attackers were shot dead, Petra said, quoting a military spokesman.

The spokesman said the attack took place at 8:30 a.m.

(0630 GMT) at a "front-line" military position northwest of Karamah.

The spokesman said: "Three men approached one of our military positions at the frontier in the northwestern Karamah area."

"After warning them and attempting to identify them, the armed men opened fire from their machine guns on the soldiers," it said.

"One of our soldiers was martyred and some others were wounded," the spokesman added. It neither identified the dead soldier nor disclosed the number of wounded.

It said, in return, Jordanian soldiers "attacked the perpetrators and killed them."

A senior security official said that the army was checking whether the gunmen infiltrated from the Israeli-occupied territories.

"We are combing the area for traces of possible infiltration from the other side," the official told the Associated Press in exchange for anonymity. He said he did not have other information.

Court's reversal of ban on public rallies seen as victory for campaign, democracy

By Naveen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Thursday's reversal of a Ministry of Interior ban on public rallies by candidates has given a new impetus to a bitterly contested campaign, by first underlining the judicial authority's role in government decision and, second, by lifting a major restriction on means of democratic expression in the country, according to analysts and observers.

The court, the highest legal body in the country, revoked the controversial ban saying that the minister of interior's authority does not extend to

issuing an across-the-board interdiction of public rallying in elections. The 12-member court also said that the minister's authority was "fixed and not expansive" and that in this case, brought to the court by the Islamic Action Front (IAF), the plaintiff had "fulfilled its legal obligation to inform the administrative authority of its intention to hold a public rally."

Interior Minister Saleh Hamad, in a statement to the official news agency Petra after the decision of the court was made public, said the government "respects the decision of the Jordanian justice system and commits itself to executing it because we are a state that respects law and order."

He added that although his ministry had not issued a "general ban" on public rallying, his ministry "will look into every request for such a function separately and will issue the proper decisions and adopt the correct measures to hold the rallies in a manner which will protect the citizens' safety and public order."

Legislatively satisfied that the court had institutionalised a legal precedent to guide the executive authority over similar issues, analysts stressed what they saw as the political message of the court's decision.

"The court's decision is extremely democratic, timely and important," a well-

placed analyst told the Jordan Times. The analyst, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the court's ruling will give the citizen the feeling that the system can work for him or her and that they are not necessarily under the "hegemony of the executive branch."

Coupled with a feeling that the judicial authority can and will stand by the side of political parties against the government, most analysts believe, the lifting of the ban will help allay the fears of political parties who have felt targeted by the government in the run up to the Nov. 8 deadline.

"The timing of this case (Continued on page 10)

Islamists stage first election rally in Shmeisani

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) did not wait long to hold their first public rally after a court decision overruled a Ministry of Interior decree banning public rallies in the run-up to the Nov. 8 elections.

Right after Friday mid-morning prayers, the front held its first election rally in the upper-income district of Shmeisani where national unity and Palestine figured as the main themes of the day.

The Islamic Action Front is fielding a candidate with character and moral high ground in the Third District of Amman and it is he who will represent the conscious of our people in parliament," said former Lower House of Parliament Deputy Youssef Al Athem as he introduced his party's candidate, Ibrahim Zeid Al Keilani, at the front's first rally of the 1993 election campaign.

In a neatly-placed bedouin tent, with about three quarters of the white plastic chairs full, most of them with worshippers from the Prince Hassan Mosque in Shmeisani, the IAF activists underline the election slogans of their party.

The law forbids political lecturing or campaigning from the mosque pulpit. The Friday preacher at the Prince Hassan Mosque announced from the pulpit that the rally would take place as soon as prayers ended.

But like the campaign rally speech of Mr. Keilani, the Friday sermons at the Mosque concentrated on foreign relations rather than on internal affairs. Oppression of Muslims in Palestine, Iraq, Bosnia, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan and Lebanon was condemned, but there was no mention of issues closer to home.

In his introductory speech, at the rally, Mr. Athem stressed national unity and condemned the one-person, one-vote system as sectarian and unfair. He accused some political parties of stressing sectarian issues and dividing the electorate on tribal lines.

"Our aim is to unite people, not to divide them, to create cohesion and not fragmentation, (and) to stress that we are indeed one people — two sides of the same coin," said Mr. Athem, an excellent orator. Speaking in a part of the Third District that is heavily populated by middle and upper class Jordanians of Palestinian origin, Mr. Athem and Mr. Keilani stressed the unity of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

"All Jordanians are Jordanians, with equal rights and equal participation regardless of their origins," said Mr. Keilani. Focusing away from domestic issues for the rest of his speech, Mr. Keilani attacked camera teams filming the rally calling them "the

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Battle of the left — seats will be lost due to personality clashes and inter-party politics

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Personality conflicts and inter-party power politics are dominating the election list and campaign of two prominent left-wing political parties and may cause the defeat of most of their candidates, leftist observers and commentators say.

Who were once known as the champions of issue politics have become the champions of personality cults, vying for seats that may more easily be won by other fellow leftists, they say.

The scaling down of the number of leftist candidates

running in at least six electoral districts has hurt left-wing chances at the polls, members of the concerned parties, the Democratic Jordan People's Party (DJPP) and the Jordanian Democratic Popular Party (JDPP) believe.

"The problem is not the withdrawal itself, but the reasons for the withdrawal and the popularity of the alternative candidates being fielded," said one JDPP member.

The JDPP and DJPP announced last week that they were each dropping three of their candidates in order to field a joint list that

had a greater chance of winning votes at the polls. Known as the Progressive List, the joint list is fielding six candidates in five districts. But the new list, leftist activists say, is "weak."

Critics of the decision claim that personality politics dominated the reshuffle. Criticism has been aimed primarily at the DJPP head, Azmi Khawaja, who is running on the Progressive List in Amman's First District.

"Two older, more senior members of both parties wanted to run and thus scrambled the existing list. They ignored who had more

popularity where and who had a better chance of winning. They concentrated on their own individual campaigns," says one observer from the fellow leftist Communist Party.

"In almost every district the 'stronger' candidate was asked to withdraw on behalf of a less popular candidate so that the equation between the two parties would remain in balance," commented an independent observer.

The decision to create a Progressive List was originally seen as a reformative way of dealing with the new election law and the restric-

tions placed on the campaigns, political observers say. They predict a decrease in the number of seats held by pan-Arabs and leftists in the next Parliament.

With leftist and pan-Arab parties feeling the "squeeze" created by the one-person, one-vote formula, leftist and pan-Arabist seats in Parliament may drop, political commentators predict.

"I don't think the left will get more than five to seven seats, down from the 12 in the last Parliament," said a DJPP supporter.

"The merger list was a (Continued on page 10)

Shelling duels in S. Lebanon

MARIJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas battled Israeli and allied militia gunners Friday in the heaviest artillery duels in South Lebanon since the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord was signed last month, security sources said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the thunderous blasts that echoed across the hills and valleys facing the eastern and central sectors of Israel's self-styled "security zone."

Israeli and allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia gunners pounded suspected guerrilla strongholds with sustained barrages of howitzer fire, said the security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas fired mortars into the "security zone," which Israel carved out in 1985 ostensibly to shield its northern towns from cross-border attacks.

The duel began after an SLA patrol discovered and harmlessly defused a roadside bomb planted near the Israeli-manned Sojod outpost in the zone's central sector at 9 a.m. (0700 GMT), the security sources said.

The nearby Ghizlan position manned by the SLA came under mortar fire as the explosive charge was being dismantled, provoking the massive Howitzer retaliation, the sources added.

Shells struck the pine woods of Iqlim Al Tufah, the main Hizbollah guerrilla base in South Lebanon overlooking the central sector of the Israeli-held enclave, the sources said.

Also targeted were the villages of Maydoun, Birket Jabour and Abn Rashed facing the enclave's eastern sector, about eight kilometres east of a Palestinian exiles' camp at Marj Al Zohour, the sources said.

Mortar volleys and later Katyusha rockets were fired from the province and one Katyusha directly struck the SLA's Ghizlan post at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT). Six other Katyusha exploded around the post.

Mogadishu clashes flare; Aided pursues new tone

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Factional fighting erupted in the war-ravaged Somali capital Friday, shattering a two-day calm in the wake of fierce clashes which left 17 people dead earlier this week.

Foreign journalists at the Sahafi Hotel heard persistent rattles of small arms fire around the K4 roundabout area of southern Mogadishu, the scene of intense fighting on Monday and Tuesday. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Somali sources said the fighting pitted young militia-men loyal to warlord Mohammed Farah Aided and those of his enemy, self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammed. An artillery war between General Aided and Mr. Ali Mahdi killed or wounded 30,000 people in Mogadishu before the warlords agreed to an uneasy U.N.-brokered ceasefire in March last year.

U.N. and U.S. forces did not intervene during this week's fighting and a U.N. military spokesman said on Tuesday the focus now on a political solution to the Somali conflict.

Four months of fighting between Gen. Aided's supporters and international forces killed more than 70 foreign soldiers, including two dozen Americans.

Friday's fighting broke out even as an American naval ship unloaded heavy military equipment at Mogadishu's new sea port.

The equipment which included M1-A1 Abrahams tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, self-propelled howitzers and trucks, will be used to protect American troops serving with the U.N. peacekeeping force here.

The United States has some 13,000 troops in Somalia and another 7,000 on standby offshore.

Signs emerge of end to Kashmir mosque siege

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — The two-week Indian army siege of Kashmir's holiest Islamic shrine could end soon, government officials and Kashmiri mediators said Friday as the region braced for more protests.

"A resolution of all the issues seems to be just around the corner," government spokesman Mahmood Ur Rahman told reporters. "We hope we will be able to resolve these issues today or tomorrow."

Maulvi Abbas Ansari, one of three prominent Kashmiris who went on Thursday to talk to the militants among some 150 people inside the mosque, agreed a settlement was closer. "It may take another day or two," he told Reuters.

Security forces fired tear-gas Friday to stop hundreds of Muslims trying to march towards the mosque. But there was no repeat of the violence that occurred last Friday when paramilitary police fired on demonstrators and killed about 50 people.

For the second Friday, Islamic religious and political leaders called for a mass protest of the army siege of the militants inside the Hazratbal Mosque.

Unlike a week earlier when thousands of people responded to a similar call, only a few hundred residents braved the streets where reinforcements of federal police were on alert.

Demonstrators came out in Srinagar, and the towns of Sopore and Baramulla. They were beaten back by troops using tear-gas and truncheons.

Police say about 60 militants and scores of civilians are inside the mosque, where Muslims believe a hair of the Prophet Mohammad is enshrined in a sealed room. Earlier, the government had demanded the unconditional surrender of all the militants. But government sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, say negotiations were now focused on whether non-Kashmiri militants could go free.

Qadhafi says reports of rebellion are 'blatant lie'

CAIRO (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has described reports of a military uprising against him as a "blatant lie."

In a speech to university faculty and students, carried on Libyan television Thursday, Colonel Qadhafi denied Western press reports that he had called out the air force to put down a rebellion at an army base near Misratah, east of the Libyan capital Tripoli.

"We have in front of us a blatant lie," Col. Qadhafi said. "We are the witnesses and we know that nothing has happened, whether in Misratah or anywhere else, that no plane moved and that there was no rebellion."

The broadcast was monitored by the BBC in London. His remarks came a day after a Libyan opposition group in exile charged that Col. Qadhafi's government has executed dozens of Libyans and arrested hundreds to counter a military rebellion aimed at bringing the colonel down after 24 years in power.

The military is believed to be the only force capable of dislodging him.

Mohammed Gihrit, a spokesman for the opposition Libyan National Front, told the Associated Press on Thursday that clashes were continuing at a base near Bani Walid, but he did not have figures on casualties. Bani Walid also is in eastern Libya.

Western diplomats in the Libyan capital and opposition leaders abroad reported last week that the air force moved Oct. 17-18 against rebellions in Misratah and Bani Walid.

Opposition leaders have said other camps were involved, including Al Zawiyah, 50 kilometres west of Tripoli, and Tarhuna, about 50 kilometres south of the capital.

There have been some reports that the unrest was not political but stemmed from the regime's failure to pay its military troops for several months. There is also believed to be discontent in the ranks over shortages caused by U.N. sanctions to force since the spring of 1992.

Thursday's Washington Post newspaper said a mutiny against Col. Qadhafi earlier this month had begun spontaneously as a protest over pay, but escalated into a stand-off between troops loyal to the Libyan leader and some 650 mutineers.

It said Col. Qadhafi had sent in the air force to bomb the rebels.

The BBC said it had also reported that the Libyan air force put down a coup attempt in Misratah.

The Washington Post's re-

port from Cairo, which quoted diplomats and exiled Libyan opposition sources, said troops in the Zawiyah barracks mutinied on Oct. 7 to protest not having been paid for several months.

It said there were similar revolts in the barracks of Misratah and Beol Walid and that all three were met by air strikes.

Experts have said it is Col. Qadhafi's worst problem with the military since a 1986 rebellion against his rule.

"The Libyan government has denied that any unrest occurred, and no one has been reported on the government-controlled media."

In his speech, Col. Qadhafi also insisted that his government, which includes citizen committees at all levels, would persist.

"If Muammar Qadhafi died and a thousand Muammar Qadhafis died, the people's congress will go on and the people's committees will go on and nobody can change this system," he was quoted as saying.

He accused the BBC, the London-headquartered British Broadcasting Corporation which has carried reports of the rebellion, and the British intelligence service of fabricating the stories to demoralise the Libyan people.

"They said: 'Wait, we will concoct something for you. First, say there is a coup... so that Libya becomes like Azerbaijan, like Burundi.'"

Col. Qadhafi insisted Libya has no army, just "a people in arms" and added: "The people have the authority and the weapons, and the people cannot overthrow themselves."

Libya has been locked in a debate with Britain, the United States and France over allegations that two Libyan men were behind the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am passenger jet over Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 people in the Boeing 747 were killed along with 11 on the ground.

France is seeking four Libyans for questioning in the 1989 bombing of a French UTA passenger jet over Niger in which 171 people died.

The U.N. Security Council imposed arms, diplomatic and air sanctions against Libya in April 1992 for refusing to turn the Lockerbie suspects over for trial.

They have threatened to seek harsher sanctions to force Libya to comply.

In his speech Thursday, Col. Qadhafi also called for thieves to have their hands chopped off.

"Theft, whether it be in the (public) treasury, in the factory or on the street, should be

punished by the amputation of a hand, in keeping with the Koran," he said.

"Murderers should be killed... and beatings should be carried out when warranted," said the leader of Libya, which calls itself a socialist republic where the Koran is the social code.

A report said Friday Libyan opposition groups met this month to form a united front against Libyan leader Col. Qadhafi just at the time when diplomats reported the revolt.

Al Hayat newspaper, printed in Cairo, said the heads of three groups met in Algeria on Oct. 14 and 15 and discussed a common platform which would insist on full pluralist democracy and Libya's current rulers for economic collapse.

The paper did not make any link between the revolt and the opposition meeting.

An exiled Libyan politician contacted by Reuters confirmed the meeting had taken place but said he had no details of it.

Political analysts say Col. Qadhafi, in power since 1969, faces mounting unrest at home because of the threat of tougher U.N. sanctions.

Al Hayat said the three groups were the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL) led by Mohammed Megarief, the Cooperation Bureau for Democratic and National Forces led by Major Abdul Moemil Al Houti, and the National Libyan Alliance represented by Secretary-General Mansour Al Kikhia.

The NFSL, the best known opposition group, was formed in 1981 by Mr. Megarief, a former ambassador to India. It staged a coup attempt against Col. Qadhafi in 1984 but has been quiet since losing a support base in neighbouring Chad when the government there changed in 1990.

It is considered to be close to the United States, where its militants have trained in recent years.

Both Mr. Houti and Mr. Kikhia are ex-foreign ministers under Col. Qadhafi formerly known for leftist and Arab nationalist views. They started the National Libyan Alliance in the mid-1980s but later split.

Previous attempts to coordinate among Libya's disparate opposition groups have come to little.

In the past the different factions, ranging from old-fashioned monarchists to Western-style liberals, Arab nationalists and Muslim fundamentalists, have been able to agree on little other than their common dislike for Col. Qadhafi.

U.S. general accepts blame for failed mission in Somalia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The army general who led the effort to capture Somali clan leader Mohammed Farrah Aidid told President Bill Clinton he accepts responsibility for the failed mission and the deaths of 18 Americans in a battle in downtown Mogadishu, congressional and Pentagon officials said.

General William Garrison sent a handwritten letter to Mr. Clinton through Representative John Murtha, who recently visited Somalia, the officials said Wednesday night, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In addition to accepting responsibility for the failed mission, Mr. Garrison told Mr. Clinton that the deployment of armoured vehicles to his Ranger unit in Somalia would not have changed the outcome of the Oct. 3 mission against Gen. Aidid's forces, the officials said.

Gen. Aidid's guerrillas shot down two U.S. helicopters in the street battle that killed the 18 Americans, along with more than 300 Somalis and a Malaysian soldier.

Defense Secretary Les Aspin, who met privately with

Gen. Garrison at the Pentagon on Wednesday, came under intense criticism on Capitol Hill for refusing a request for armoured personnel carriers and Pakistani troops for tanks to help rescue U.S. troops that had been pinned down by Somali gunfire for hours.

Mr. Garrison said in an Oct. 19 interview that having U.S. armour "would have made a difference."

"It would have been an easier operation. We would have been able to punch into the city more quickly... (and) basically not be affected by RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades)."

Mr. Murtha, chairman of the House Defence Appropriations Sub-Committee, returned from Somalia last week.

His spokesman, Brad Clemenson, said Wednesday night the congressman "carried the letter to the president and the letter basically said General Garrison was taking responsibility for the failed mission."

A Pentagon official said Mr. Aspin had not seen the letter and was not told of its contents before it was sent to Mr. Clinton.

American soldier diagnosed for effects of chemical war

WASHINGTON (AP) — A doctor at a veterans affairs hospital has diagnosed a Gulf war veteran as suffering from "chemical-biological warfare exposure" despite Pentagon claims that no chemical attacks took place.

Senator Richard Shelby took the unusual step of announcing the diagnosis of one former soldier during a Senate floor speech Thursday as he questioned the military's contention.

"They continue to argue that our forces were not subject to any type of chemical or biological warfare during Desert Storm or Desert Shield," Mr. Shelby said. "They also dismissed assertions of the Czech defence agency that organical radiation low-level chemical war."

An environmental physician at a hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama, diagnosed William Kay as suffering from "Gulf war syndrome and chemical-biological warfare exposure," according to a document released by Mr. Shelby. It identified the physician only as Dr. C. Jackson.

Mr. Kay, who was assigned to a construction battalion, has experienced shortness of breath, excessive fatigue, in-

termittent diarrhoea, night sweats, memory problems and joint pains since the war.

"He had none of these symptoms prior to the Gulf, the doctor said."

Mr. Shelby, who is chairman of the Senate Services Sub-Committee on Force Requirements and Personnel, said he had contacted the Defence and Veterans Affairs (VA) departments.

"I will state now that the VA and the Department of Defence had better not reject this diagnosis out of hand. I can recall similar statements concerning Agent Orange," Mr. Shelby said.

As the senator spoke, the Pentagon issued a statement noting that news reports had emerged last summer about the Czech military detecting chemical agents during the war, and that the Pentagon had been "following up on those accounts."

The statement added that the Pentagon has received a copy of a written report from the Czechoslovakian Ministry of Defence, and sent a team to Prague to discuss the results of the report.

Defence Secretary Les Aspin has asked the army to coordinate a complete review for the Pentagon, including a

health assessment, the statement said.

"Preliminary data indicates that there is little likelihood of a connection between the Czechoslovakian report and any of the unexplained Gulf war diseases, because of the very low concentrations of the chemical agents; however, this issue is being examined," the statement said.

In July, Mr. Shelby held hearings in which two Alabama veterans claimed their units were hit by chemical weapons in the Gulf war and asked Congress for help getting government medical aid for health problems they have suffered since the war.

Pentagon officials have denied that there were any chemical attacks on U.S. troops during the Gulf war, although the threat of such attacks was constant throughout the 100-day conflict.

In September, Sen. Donald Riegle issued a report that said chemical warfare agents could have caused debilitating illnesses affecting thousands of Gulf war veterans.

The report, compiled by Mr. Riegle's staff, said there was a strong possibility the Iraqis launched at least two missiles with chemical toxin warheads at U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Baidh's children attacked, nephew killed

SANAA (AP) — Unidentified gunmen opened fire on a car in Aden carrying two sons of Vice-President Ali Salem Al Baidh, killing a nephew who was driving, police sources said Friday. The two sons, whose names and ages were not known, escaped unhurt in the Thursday night attack, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The gunmen opened fire from two speeding cars and escaped, the sources added. Mr. Baidh, who leads the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) that ruled Aden before its merger with North Yemen three years ago, is embroiled in a dispute with his partners in a coalition government that came to power after April's multi-party elections. The coalition partners are the General People's Congress, which ruled in the North and is led by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and the Muslim fundamentalists of Al Islah party. He refused earlier this month to come to Sanaa to be sworn in as vice-president by the elected 301-member parliament.

U.N. sends food to south Sudan by train

NAIROBI (AFP) — The United Nations' food aid agency has sent 1,500 tonnes of food to famine-stricken southern Sudan by train across the battle lines between the Islamic north and the animist and Christian south. The World Food Programme (WFP) said Friday that the food would be distributed to about 50,000 people in 15 southern towns hit by drought, civil war between north and south, or factional fighting between rival southern groups. Hundreds of thousands of people in the vast, undeveloped south are at risk of starvation. WFP said it provides food aid for about 900,000 people.

Holst to head Palestinian aid talks

OSLO (AFP) — Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst will head international negotiations in Paris next week on the allocation of \$2.05 billion in aid to the future autonomous Palestinian regions of Gaza and Jericho. Mr. Holst was asked to head the meeting on Nov. 5 following his crucial role in the secret Middle East peace talks which last month resulted in Israeli and Palestinian officials signing a historic deal on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories. The \$2.05 billion are expected to be poured into the region over the next five years.

Russia to display combat aircraft in Dubai

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia plans to display fighter planes, military helicopters and the world's largest cargo plane at the Dubai air show to be held Nov. 7-11, Itar-Tass reported Friday. The news agency said Russia and other countries from the Commonwealth of Independent States have leased five pavilions from the fair's organisers to exhibit its military aircraft. These include MiG-29 and SU-27 fighter planes, Mi-26, KA-32 and KA-50 military helicopters and the AN-125 cargo plane which Russia claims is the largest in the world.

A theatre of operational errors in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — A towel left in a patient's abdomen after an operation and a twin left unnoticed in the mother's womb are just two of the cases an Egyptian newspaper cited in complaining of careless doctors. "Sometimes death comes at the hands of the doctor," wrote the English-language Egyptian Gazette on Friday. It said a gynaecologist operating on a woman with a difficult pregnancy was surprised when she died moments after delivery. Unknown to him she had been carrying twins and the second baby was left in the womb. In other incidents: A doctor performed a hysterectomy but left a towel in the patient's abdomen, a surgeon paralysed a patient by removing the wrong vertebrae in back surgery, a woman went blind after a cataract operation and a man died when the doctor injected his muscle instead of his vein. The Gazette did not say when or where these incidents were recorded. No competent medical authority was available for comment.

Saddam frees Filipino prisoner

BAGHDAD (AFP) — President Saddam Hussein has freed a Filipino serving a six-year jail term for illegal entry into Iraq from Kuwait, Philippine diplomats said Friday. They said Nicanor Factoran, 30, was freed Thursday, one year into his sentence, following an appeal from Philippine President Fidel Ramos to President Saddam delivered by a parliamentary delegation from Manila. Mr. Factoran was in good health and due to leave Iraq by Sunday, they said. He was the fifth foreign prisoner to be freed in the last month. A Moroccan was released on Oct. 2 and three Swedes on Sept. 22. All of them had been jailed for illegal entry from Iraq's disputed border with Kuwait. At least six other foreigners are still in prison on the same charge.

Police seek bodies of 2 foreigners in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — Police used bulldozers Friday to search for the bodies of two women, a Swede and a Russian, believed murdered and buried in a city rubbish dump. The search began after an alleged Cypriot gangland kingpin arrested for attempted murder told a court Thursday that he knew where the two women were buried. Both women have been missing since June. Christina Margerita Constantinos, 27, a Swedish woman married to a Cypriot disco owner, disappeared from her home in the Ayia Napa tourist resort in south Cyprus on June 7. Russian cabaret dancer Lina Deana, who used to work at a nightclub in the port city of Larnaca, has also been missing since early June. The case has drawn a lot of media attention on this holiday island where violent crime is rare. Antonis Kitas, a reputed Cypriot mob boss known locally by the nickname Al Capone, told a court a man had put out a 10,000 pound (\$20,000) contract for Christina's murder. He subsequently told reporters that he and another man, who he claimed killed Mrs. Constantinos, took the body to the Nicosia city rubbish dump at Kotsiatis and buried it. He also claimed he knew where the body of the Russian dancer was buried. Kitas appeared in court following his arrest earlier in the week on a charge of attempted murder during the armed holdup of a jewellery shop.

'Islamic World could rectify image in West with democracy'

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Muslim World could answer questions about the compatibility of Islam and democracy by turning the rhetoric of the recent past into a period of real democracy-building, says Professor John Esposito, director of Georgetown University's Centre for Muslim-Christian Understanding.

"It is time to move beyond ideology to implementation," he said during an Oct. 26 conference on the relationship between Islam and the West. "People want to see what an Islamic democracy might look like."

The day-long conference was sponsored by CAUSA, a coalition of four organisations: the Council of Imams, the American Muslim Council, Solidarity International for

Human Rights and the United Association for Studies and Research.

Of the four sessions held during the day, only two — on democracy and the media, held at the National Press Club — were open to reporters. The meetings on human rights and congressional relations were held privately, in a congressional hearing room on Capitol Hill.

The panelists who discussed Islam and the Western media expressed alarm at what they described as the negative, stereotyping of Muslims and their culture.

"There has been success in identifying the Muslim as 'the other,'" said Dr. Yvonne Haddad of Amherst University.

She cited coverage of the World Trade Center bombing in New York as particularly

troubling, noting that the defendants in that case are regularly identified as Muslims — as if their religion were relevant to the charges brought against them.

Another panelist, Dr. Maher Hathout, agreed that much U.S. press coverage offers a negative view of Islam, but stressed that it is up to Muslims to turn that perception around. "Most of the blame goes to us — not to the press," he said.

Dr. Hathout, chairman of the Islamic Centre of Southern California, said Muslims "need to look reality in the eye." The U.S. media are neither monolithic nor controlled by particular interests, and are "mostly right" about issues such as human rights abuses in the Muslim World, he said. Dr. Hathout suggested that

American Muslims combine honest self-criticism with a greater willingness to share their culture and beliefs with their fellow citizens.

Otherwise, they risk marginalisation, "and the United States will be deprived of the contributions of a great religion and culture... at a time when America needs that badly," he said.

Greg Noakes, of the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, noted that most Americans admit to knowing very little about Islam, and that Muslims should be willing to fill that gap with accurate information. "It is the climate of ignorance that makes stereotypes possible," he said.

During the session on democracy and pluralism in Islamic societies, Mr. Esposito sug-

gested that American Muslims are encountering problems faced by all minority groups in the United States at one point or another. The country is still struggling with the idea "that Muslims are us," he said.

But Mr. Esposito also stressed that open-mindedness is in short supply all over the world. Just as many Americans have swallowed simplistic ideas about Islam, many residents of the Muslim World have a similarly negative and one-dimensional view of Americans.

"There is a clash of fundamentalist world views" that needs to be softened, he said. For his part, Dr. Ilyaz Gilani, senior adviser to former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan, sees real opportunities for cooperation between

the Western and Islamic worlds.

Dr. Gilani credited the West for its unprecedented material well-being and for having evolved stable democratic procedures and institutions. He suggested that the Islamic World can — and should — learn from that example. On the other hand, Dr. Gilani said the West has failed to maintain the institutions of family and community.

The Islamic World, he said, needs to "look at the whole package" offered by the West in a fresh and unbiased manner.

"We Muslims accept Western success" in the areas of democracy-building and development, Dr. Gilani said. In the social arena, however, "we are trying to succeed where the West has failed."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Pif Et Horgule
17:41 L'Ecole Des Fars
18:30 Bouanabour
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ushuala
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Pencil Boys
21:00 Da Beal's On
21:30 Perspective
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: "The Key"

PRAYER TIMES

04:28 Fajr
05:46 (Sunrise) Duhur
11:19 Dhuhr
14:25 'Asr
16:53 Maghrib
18:11 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 807040
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 652785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

TERRESTRIAL CHURCH

Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.

628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel.

652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.

824323

German-speaking Evangelical Con-

gregation Tel. 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

day Saints Tel. 675591

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675591

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Partly cloudy weather conditions will prevail with a chance of scattered showers, and winds will be north-easterly moderate. In Amman, it will be dusty and partly cloudy with a chance of showers; and winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Mtu./Max. temp.

Amman 13 / 25

Aqaba 20 / 33

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Hisham Kan'an 790276

Dr. Mustafa Hazzalah 626024

Dr. Sa'ad Ali 788285

Dr. Arif Al Ashhab 602507

Firas pharmacy 661912

Flakows pharmacy 773336

Al Asara pharmacy 637055

Naiwath pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsan pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

REBID: Dr. Ahmad Qunu (—)

Al Quds Pharmacy (—)

ZARQA: Dr. Firas Hamdan 967725

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775212

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 68021

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information 121

Overseas Calls 610230

Central Amman Telephone

German minister concludes visit after meetings with top officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — German Federal Minister of Education and Science Rainer Ortleb Friday concluded a three-day visit to Jordan and left for home. Professor Ortleb Thursday met with Jordanian officials including Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the prime minister and Professor Ortleb expressed "deep satisfaction with the strong relations between Germany and Jordan and stressed the two countries' determination to expand the scope of mutual cooperation in

cultural and educational fields. Petra said that Dr. Majali reviewed with the German minister the latest developments in the Middle East peace process at a meeting attended by Khaled Zoubi, Acting Minister of Education and Higher Education.

Professor Zoubi had earlier met Professor Ortleb and accompanied him on a visit to the German-financed Veterinary Vaccines Centre where they were briefed by Mukhlis Azmarin on the centre's development and production. Professor Ortleb met with

Najih Rashdan, chairman of the constituent assembly of the Centre of Studies on Freedom and Democracy and Human Rights in the Arab World, and discussed the centre's projected plans.

Also Thursday, Professor Ortleb met with Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Al Lawzi who voiced Jordan's appreciation of Germany's continued economic and technical assistance to Jordan.

Professor Ortleb toured Petra and Aqaba Friday morning before his departure for Germany.



Jawad Al Anani

Peace requires specific steps for progress — Anani

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani said that the peace process has presented the Arabs with a new challenge of deciding on their options, and one which requires them to take specific steps towards ensuring progress, because if they fail to plan for themselves, others will shape the Arab future, and at Arab expense.

In an open debate on alternatives to peace organised by the Association of Arab University graduates in Amman Thursday, Dr. Anani said that so far the Arabs have been talking about peace, expressing their aspirations and hopes, but without any idea of translating peace into practical and clear steps or administrative programmes, said the minister.

The peace process, he said, has now opened the way for the Arabs to discuss the future and to contemplate its benefits, said Dr. Anani.

The Arabs are faced with the question of how to be part of the Middle East as a whole, in order to lay the foundation of a new Arab order that would ensure a better future, he said.

They are faced with answering "whether they are willing to reach a formula within the new world order whereby they can have their say, or remain isolated and thus escape present and future challenges, Dr. Anani said.

Dr. Anani called on every Arab country to realise that the policy of isolation threatens regimes rather than protect them.

He also urged the Jordanian private sector to conduct studies and formulate its own concept of future economic cooperation between Jordan and the countries of the Middle East.

Jordan studies proposals on monetary, trade involvement with occupied lands

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government is studying a set of proposals leading to agreements related to the modalities of Jordanian involvement in the monetary affairs of and trade with the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, informed sources said Friday.

The proposals, tabled during a meeting of a Jordanian-Palestinian committee on economic cooperation last week, are expected to be presented to the Council of Ministers for approval and amendment if necessary before they are formulated as what would be the first official agreements on economic and monetary ties between the two banks of the Jordan River following the historic Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord signed on Sept. 13.

The agreements are expected to cover the mechanism for Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) control of monetary and banking affairs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the five-year Palestinian autonomy envisaged under the Sept. 13 accord, said the sources, who preferred anonymity.

According to the sources, the Palestinians, who lack any monetary authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, are seeking CBJ supervision of commercial banks — as and when they reopen — and the continued use of the Jordanian dinar in the occupied territories.

His Majesty King Hussein, who has thrown Jordan's full weight behind the Israel-PLO accord, has pledged total Jordanian cooperation and support for the Palestinians in implementation of the agreement.

Under a broad framework on Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation worked out last month, the Palestinians will set up a token monetary authority for the occupied territories to work closely in coordination with the CBJ through a representative status in the CBJ's board of directors.

Among the proposals tabled last week, the sources said, was also a framework related to Jordanian-Palestinian trade and the flow of merchandise across the bridges on the Jordan River.

By mutual agreement, both sides are declining detailed comment on the proposals raised, saying it was premature to discuss in the open until Jordanian and Palestinian decision makers formally approve them.

Furthermore, officials from both sides also point out it could defeat the purpose to reveal details of the proposals and agreements since Israel has not clearly stated its intentions vis-a-vis its choking grip on the economy of the occupied territories.

They cite an annex in the Israel-PLO accord referring to Israeli-Palestinian economic cooperation as the best indication yet that, despite comments from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and others, the Jewish state wants to retain the occupied territories as a monopoly market. Israel now sells about \$1.5 billion worth of goods to the Palestinians.

As far back as mid-last year, Israel sought to impose customs barriers and a ceiling on Jordanian exports to the occupied territories as part of any peace agreement.

The proposal was immediately rejected by Jordan as well as the Palestinians, and it is not known yet whether Israel is dusting that idea or similar "protectionist" measures to be presented at an expected meeting soon of PLO and Israeli officials on economic cooperation.

Jordan and Israel are negotiating an agreement on reopening of commercial banks in the occupied territories, several banks which used to operate in the West Bank until Israel seized the territory in 1967 are poised to resume their operations as soon as the CBJ gives the green light.

Officials have said that those banks which had pre-1967 branches will be given priority in permissions for operations. Approval for applications from others will follow later they say.

Similarly, the Palestinians are also seeking Jordanian permission for branches in the Kingdom for Palestinian banks expected to spring up in the occupied territories.

Palestinian economic planners from the occupied territories have said that economic

independence from Israel was one of their priority objectives.

They say that the best option for the Palestinians at this point in time is to interact with Jordan while keeping options for long-term objectives such as a Palestinian currency and independent monetary authorities until such time the final status of the territories are negotiated with Israelis in the third year of self-rule.

The Amman meetings were seen as a follow-up to a broad framework for West Bank-East Bank economic cooperation worked out last month when Ahmad Ouriea, head of Samed, the PLO's investment arm, was in town.

Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani headed the Jordanian team to last week's talks, while Mohammad Zuhbi Nashashibi, head of the PLO's Economic Planning Department, led the Palestinian side.

CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi and Mohammad Saqqaf, advisor to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, were the other members in the Jordanian team, while Jawad Najal, a senior aide to Mr. Nashashibi, Palestinian ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Al Abdul Rahim and his deputy Omar Khatib were on the Palestinian delegation.

Finance Minister Sami Gammo said the government was satisfied that the groundwork has been laid for Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation after the uncertainties raised in the immediate wake of the Israel-PLO accord.

"What we are discussing now are definite agreements," Mr. Gammo told the Jordan Times. He declined to elaborate, saying formal announcements would be made later.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Turkey

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable to Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on Turkey's national day. King Hussein wished the Turkish President continued good health and happiness and the Turkish people further progress and prosperity.

Crisis management seminar to begin Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day pan-Arab seminar on crisis management, organised by the Arab Organisation for Administrative Development (AOAD), will be held here Monday, according to AOAD Director General Ahmad Saqr Ashour. Participants will discuss the definition of crisis, its dimensions and methods of classifying crises.



Musical artists from the six local bands scheduled to perform tonight (Saturday) at the

Palace of Culture in Amman (Photo by Jean-Claude Elias)

Tuning up for tonight's pop music festival

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Los Morenos, the Dead Sea Fishing Club, Faculty X, Black Onyx and the Floys will rock the Palace of Culture tonight (Saturday) with an impressive sound and hit songs by Phil Floyd, Dire Straits, Phil Collins, Santana, U2, Eric Clapton, the Gipsy Kings and Bruce Springsteen, among others.

The organisers, the National Music Conservatory — Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the concert's coordinator, Jesse Juma, are presenting the event rather as a pop festival, with the participation of several local bands — Jordanians and other Arab nationals living in Jordan.

The Jordan Times spoke to the musicians during their rehearsal on Friday. All of them

are thrilled at the idea of sharing the music they love with the audience.

Most of them spoke against computerised, sequenced music saying that live performance, even with its technical flaws, is preferable to perfectly recorded, but lifeless, music.

Los Morenos have an obvious weakness for the Latin flavour and will play songs by the Gipsy Kings.

The Floys are more oriented towards instrumentals and will present rock and jazz numbers, as well as some of their own compositions.

Faculty X will also play their own works along with pieces by Chick Corea.

The Dead Sea Fishing Club, a Jordanian group with a good sense of humour, has already recorded some songs that were broadcast on Radio Jordan FM station. They will play rock

and rhythm and blues music. Black Onyx likes to play standards like Eric Clapton's "You Are Wonderful Tonight."

As appealing as the programme sounds, one still wishes that local bands were able to find their own musical identity and "perform" more original music.

In spite of previous honourable attempts by Jordanian groups and artists like Mirage, Hot Ice or Qasem Sabounshi, no specific, clearly characterised local style has emerged.

Tonight's event however is a landmark that will hopefully be followed by many other similar ones.

With Radio Jordan's beloved DJs Muhammad al-Jazirah and Rania Kassidieh as hosts, the pop festival promises to delight music lovers from all age groups.

Zarqa basin development should extend life of King Talal Dam for 50 years

AMMAN (Petra) — The ongoing development of the Zarqa River Basin is primarily aimed at extending the life of the King Talal Dam for at least another 50 years, according to Agricultural Minister Marwan Kamal Friday.

He said that the JD18 million project, which is being financed by several Arab and foreign financial institutions and governments, was expected to be completed by the end of 1995.

By then, the minister said, a total of 822,000 dunums in the basin region will have been developed, and soil would have been prevented from flowing into the river and carried along to the King Talal Dam.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the development of the basin entails planting forest trees and creating pasture lands to protect the nearby lands.

The project also involves introducing measures to protect the banks of the river, includ-

ing land development and afforestation schemes.

The ministry said that the project aims at safe land use, and ensuring soil conservation.

Ministry experts said that the scheme was expected to help prevent soil erosion in the river basin, reduce silting in the King Talal Dam and improve farmers' incomes on a sustainable basis.

The reservoir behind the King Talal Dam is being used to irrigate lands in the Jordan Valley which produces most of the country's crops.

To encourage farmers to become more involved in the project, said Dr. Kamal, the ministry will grant subsidies of JD30 for each dunum where soil maintenance works have been completed.

BASSIRA

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bassira members & guests please note: This afternoon's meeting will feature candidate

Toujan Faisal

as guest speaker. The location of the meeting will be:

The Regency Palace Hotel (Petra Ballroom) at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting will be conducted in English

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

★ Bani Hamida fall exhibition: "Autumn Leaves" at the Jordan Contractors Association Building (near the American Embassy in Ahdoun) 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

★ Exhibition of ceramics and coloured glass by artists Khalid Mahafzah and Basel Tarawneh at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Jerash gems by Paula Williams-Brown and portraits by Ahmad Ismail at the Gallery Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental (6:00 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily except Friday).

★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Mukhlis Al Mukhtar entitled "Colours on Black Paper" at La Casa Exhibition Hall (5th Circle).

★ Art exhibition by artists Mahmoud Taha and Salman Abbas at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of etchings by Mohammed Omar Khalil at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lweideh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.

LECTURES

★ Lecture by Lutfi Wakid, chief of the board of directors of the Egyptian newspaper Al Ahali, entitled "Development of the Egyptian People's Awareness of the Arab Identity" at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1972

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Weight on right scale

WITH THE problems dividing the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators multiplying and compounding with each passing day, the euphoria with which the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accord was first received is fast dissipating. On the list of thorny issues that await solutions are the extent of Israeli withdrawal from Jericho, the nature of the redeployment of Israeli troops in the occupied territories and control of border crossings between Jordan and the West Bank.

In effect, the glitter of the Israeli-Palestinian deal is fast giving way to frustration with the difficulties of negotiating intricate details of the accord in Taba and Cairo. These developments are accompanied by stalemate in the Israeli-Syrian track where negotiations are being put on hold until real practical steps have been taken to implement even the most modest terms of the PLO-Israel agreement.

Meanwhile Jordan, faithful to its commitment to comprehensive peace in the region, is awaiting progress on other tracks of the peace process before it moves forward with its own negotiations with Israel.

The problems facing the Israelis and Palestinians in their efforts to implement the terms of their agreement were only expected due to the complexity of the issues at hand.

Another factor that contributed to the slow pace of the talks over implementing the accord is that it was concluded without agreeing on important details in order to deliver an early pronouncement on a much awaited breakthrough.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has been making loud noises lately that he needs more time than was originally envisaged to put the agreement into effect. Mr. Rabin's clear reluctance to move fast towards implementing the deal could be attributed to the challenge that Israeli opposition to the deal is posing for him.

Mr. Rabin, and indeed the whole of Israel, however, will soon find themselves facing a greater challenge than that represented by the Israeli opponents of the accord if they continue to delay its implementation.

The erosion of support for the accord will bode ill for the Palestinians, the Israelis and all peoples of the region. This should not be allowed to happen. The Labour government in Israel should not jeopardise the future of the area in order to appease rejectionists at home. Mr. Rabin knows more than others that those rejectionists will fight any deal conflicting with their ideology which rejects giving the Palestinians any of their internationally recognised rights. He also knows that the accord and the peace process offer, to say the least, the best opportunity for reaching peace in the region. He should have no difficulty deciding where to put his weight.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ARABS do not expect from the United States to respect them and their religion, but what is urgently wanted is a little respect on the part of Washington for the international legitimacy with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. What is urgently needed, it said, is for the superpower to implement U.N. resolutions and pave the way for peace and stability in our region. The Israelis would not have wasted so much time and stalled for two years through the futile negotiations with the Arabs had it not been assured of continued backing from the United States, said the paper. Israel is wasting time and dragging its feet in the peace process, supported by Washington which does not respect the rules of justice in our region, added the paper. What the Arabs demand is a full and immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab lands without any conditions so that the aspired peace can be achieved, continued the daily.

AL DUSTOUR daily attacked those elements that stood behind the assassination of foreigners living in or visiting Egypt and Algeria, stressing that these actions run contrary and cause harm to the Islamic faith and Muslims around the world. These killings are being committed in the name of Islam by irresponsible groups and murderers and not by true Muslims whose religion calls for and advocates tolerance and peaceful co-existence, said the daily. These elements, said the daily, have been kidnapping and killing foreigners to make up for their failure to achieve their objectives, added the paper. Indeed, it said, these attacks are aimed at distorting Islam and the image of Muslims around the world and tend to fuel the hostile propaganda machine in the West against our nation. The paper said that these crimes can not be justified under any circumstances and should be condemned by the Arabs and Muslims who are the very victims of these criminal actions.

Jordanian Perspective

Negotiating an economic game of cards — working out a Jordanian-Palestinian straight flush against Israeli aces

THE RECENT Jordanian-Palestinian discussions on the shape of economic cooperation, with particular focus on the modalities of running the monetary affairs of the Palestinians during self-rule, have cleared some of the lingering doubts among many Jordanians and Palestinians on the course of their interaction.

The overriding factor in any Jordanian-Palestinian discussions, whether regarding politics or economics, is the pledge given by His Majesty King Hussein that Jordan stands ready to offer whatever help it can to advance the Palestinian quest. And, as our Palestinian friends have revealed, the Jordanian officials involved in last week's meetings here displayed every understanding of the Palestinians' concerns against the backdrop of His Majesty's pledge.

No doubt, there are areas where political factors beyond its control may compel Jordan to adopt decisions that run contrary to its own economic interests, but the deliberations so far of Jordanians and Palestinians appear to have gone well in trying to sort out what kind of formal links the East and West banks of the River Jordan would have during the five-year Palestinian self-rule envisaged under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO agreement.

For one thing, the Palestinian-tabled formal proposal that the Jordanian dinar continues to be in circulation and the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) monitors and supervises all commercial banks — as and when they begin operations in the West Bank and Gaza — has quashed speculation that the first thing that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) wanted to do during self-rule was to issue Palestinian pound as the currency in the territories and set up its own monetary authority.

Not that there is anything wrong in the Palestinians wanting to send a strong signal of economic independence by issuing their own currency, and setting up own authorities. But the realities on the ground, or precisely the lack of a monetary base for the Palestinians, have to be taken into consideration, and the Palestinian decision to have the Jordanian dinar as their currency and have a supervisory role for the CBJ reflects pragmatic and realistic thinking on the part of Palestinian economic planners.

At the same time, the proposed issuance of bonds in Palestinian pounds with a European currency unit-type base should go a long way in serving the Palestinian quest to assert

economic independence as well as helping raise funds locally and from rich Palestinians abroad to finance development projects.

No doubt, the Central Bank of Jordan will have to play a strong role in the arrangement if only for the purpose of instilling confidence among investors.

Many other issues were tabled during the two-day meetings of the Jordanian-Palestinian economic committee last week, and most of them are still too early to be discussed in the open; hence the tight veil of secrecy drawn on the deliberations, officials say.

That is understandable for several reasons, foremost among them the realisation that Israel has not really indicated its intentions. Apart from a few comments here and there that Israelis should allow the Palestinians to take the lead in economic issues, there are few other indications that the occupying power would agree to relax its stranglehold on the Palestinian economy. If anything, the annex on economic cooperation in the Sept. 13 Declaration of Principles showed very clearly that Israel seeks continued economic dominance of the Palestinians.

As such, it would be prudent on the part of the Palestinians and Jordanians not to show their hands until the Israelis put their cards on the table. Hopefully, the Israeli bottom lines could be discerned at a meeting soon of the Palestinian-Israeli committee on economic cooperation.

But it is not enough in this context for the international community, particularly the United States, to repeatedly say that specifics should be left to the parties concerned to discuss and finalise. Such a position could apply only when the negotiations are between two independent entities exercising their free will and choice; which is definitely not the case here.

Israel, as an occupying power, holds the upper hand in the negotiations and it has dozens of aces up its sleeve to deal, including subtle threats and intimidation as well as its option to use political cards to serve its economic purposes. In such a situation, external intervention by parties like the U.S., which, regardless of disclaimers, does indeed wield enough clout with the Israelis, is essential to dissuade them from pursuing the illogical objective of reaping rewards of aggression.

Granted, there are areas where Israeli-Palestinian economic cooperation could be beneficial, but then it should be left to

the Palestinians to decide whether they would like to exercise those options instead of Israel trying to push things down the Palestinian throat.

Close Jordanian-Palestinian interaction is absolutely necessary to preempt such a course of events where the Palestinians may be left with no choice but to accept whatever Israel is willing to offer them. The success of such an interaction largely depends on international understanding and support, particularly from the U.S. (although it might be unlikely) and the European Community (very likely, given the traditionally cautious European approach to Israel).

Some of us here argue that Jordan should adopt a hands-off approach and respond to specific Palestinian requests on a case-by-case basis and let things take their own course — a situation much similar to a married daughter coming to her parents with requests of help. It will be a timely reminder here that it is not an Israeli-Palestinian marriage that we are witnessing; it is a divorce with the ironic twist that it is the husband who is seeking alimony after decades of outright abuse following a shotgun wedding.

I am not one of those who advocate a hands-off approach. And my reasons are simple: For one thing, there is only a very thin drawing line between Jordanian and Palestinian economic interests; for another, any Israeli-dictated Palestinian decision is bound to have its repercussions on the eastern side of the River Jordan; yet a third element is the fact that Palestinians and Jordanians stand to benefit collectively and individually through economic interaction from a solid support base of political understanding.

What Jordan needs at this point in time is a dedicated group of technocrats and economists to put their heads together and come up with every scenario that Israel is likely to bring up, and have fitting answers. They should have no other preoccupation but to think of every possible angle and element that Israel would use to serve its objectives. It is not going to be an easy task to get something out of the Israelis.

It would also be very timely to remember that historically Jews are some of the best business negotiators and the Arabs need to work intensely on upgrading their negotiating skills. It is one thing to dedicate oneself to national priorities and economic interests, but it is something else to achieve results that serve those priorities and interests in negotiations.

Irrelevant Commonwealth makes little impact on world affairs

By G.H. Jansen

LIMASSOL, Cyprus — Politically speaking, the 29th Commonwealth Heads of States General Meeting (CHOGM) was a failure except for one, small, faint gleam of hope somewhere off in the future.

Apart from dealing with the issues traditionally on CHOGM agendas, this summit meeting was to face the world feeling the full impact of the post-cold war situation, the collapse of the communist system and the failure of anything as neat and orderly as the new world order and the emergence, instead, of a shambolic hegemony.

While individual delegates expressed the need for the Commonwealth "to do something", the CHOGM gave only the faintest hint that it might find an independent role for itself on the world scene different from the limited, marginal, parochial role it has played so far. If and when the Commonwealth does that, it would have to do it at the expense of the U.N. (which in any case has become a sub-department of the U.S. State Department) which this week has opted out of its peacekeeping role. But the final communiqué of CHOGM, inexplicably, goes out of the way to praise the U.N. "now better placed than ever before to fulfil the role envisaged by its founders," which is non-factual nonsense.

CHOGM's small step forward came when it considered what is called "a global humanitarian order". This is a pet project of the secretary general, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, who, in a briefing on the day before the meeting began, said it would be its main theme and the final communiqué says that it was. Which in fact it was not, because when the delegates came to discuss it, they found that the secretary general's idea was, as the Cypriot president put it, too wide and too vague. So it was shunted off to a high-level inter-governmental group which will report to the next CHOGM in New Zealand in two years' time.

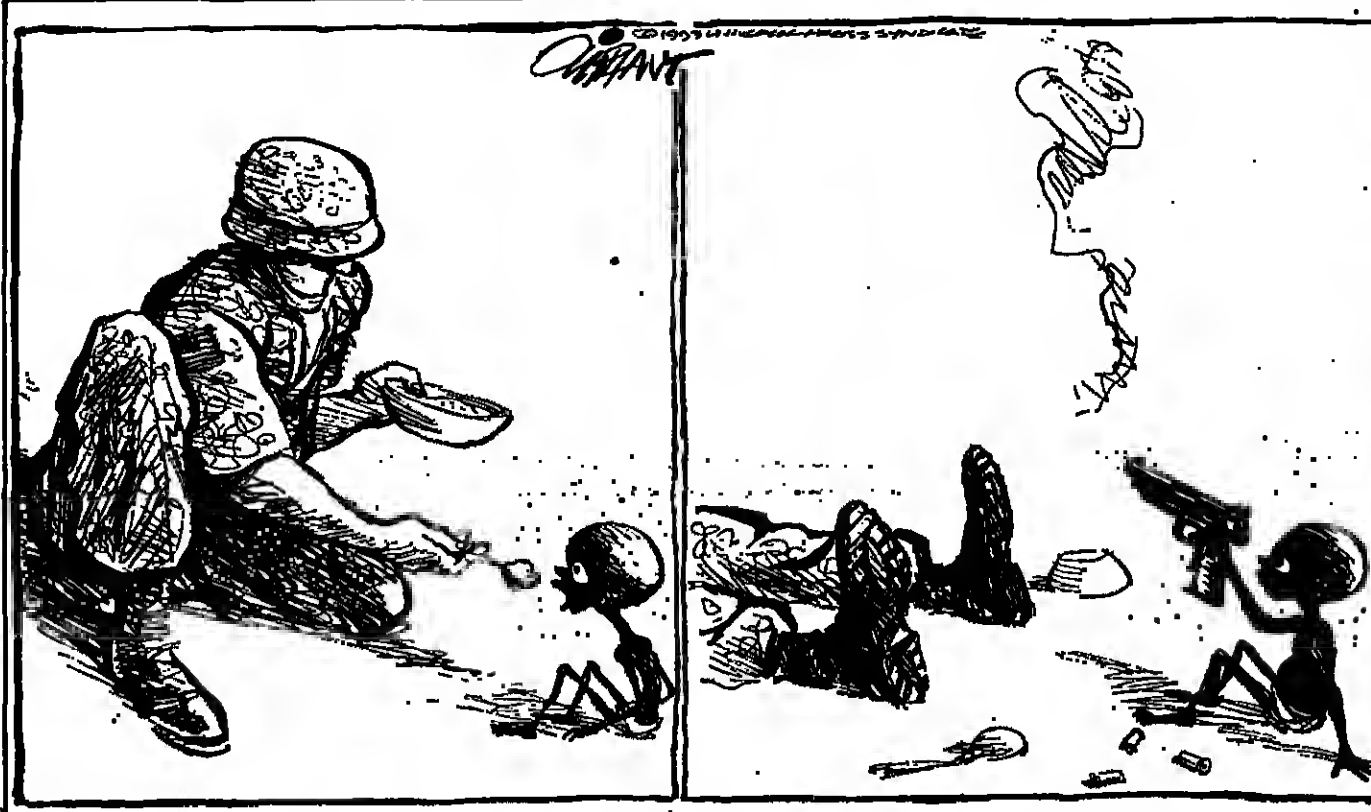
In a private discussion of the global humanitarian order with the secretary general, it became clear, almost painfully so, that he himself had not given rigorous analytical thought to his own proposal. The objective of such an order, he said, would be to "deal with conflicts before or when they happen"; the first step in the creation of such an order would be the achievement of a "clear consensus on what the criteria for international intervention would be".

Ominously for the prospect for an independent Commonwealth role, perhaps through the new "order", he said that the "order" would work within the U.N. and would "cooperate" with the U.S. He did go so far as to say, "There should be a Commonwealth role because it is best equipped to reach consensus which could be a better guarantee as a base of operations than a sole superpower", somewhat of a circumlocution but still positively daring for a dyed-in-the-wool secretary general like the chief. India is of the opinion that the chief is too pro-U.S., which could very well be true, and that does not augur well for the global humanitarian order.

That idea seemed to come in direct response to the wish expressed by several delegates, notably the Canadian representative, that the Commonwealth should not stand still and silent and should move for the early establishment of "a mechanism for conflict resolution". Those words "conflict resolution" emerged as a main theme of the speeches while the PLO-Israeli accords were taken as an example of how antagonists could get together to resolve long-standing conflicts.

But, alas, when it came to CHOGM taking a stand on certain controversial issues, it was weak and wobbly. Thus, on Bosnia, which was often referred to, the final communiqué merely wished for it a just and lasting peace. On Cyprus, CHOGM merely reiterated U.N. resolutions, called for the removal of Turkish troops and settlers, as per the resolutions, and condemned the negative attitude of the Turkish Cypriots to the talks. It could hardly have done less when meeting in Cyprus: this was certainly no "victory" for Cyprus. CHOGM did not take up the suggestions made by President Mugebe, perhaps in a surge of emotion, that sanctions should be applied to Turkey (by the Commonwealth?) and that Commonwealth troops would, if necessary, supplement the U.N. force already on the island. Within 24 hours Mr. Mugebe ate his words on sanctions (under pressure? And if so, from whom?) and the troops' idea sank without a bubble.

One reason why the Commonwealth has not made its own distinctive mark on world affairs is that the present generation of Commonwealth leaders, excepting Mr. Mugebe and Dr. Mahatir Mohammad of Malaysia, does not have the intellectual capability or moral stature to launch a bold international initiative. Another is that Chief Anyaoku, although highly intelligent and thoughtful, is not the innovative politician needed to implement his own far-reaching proposals. But having been given a second term of office he could perhaps turn out very differently and could lead the Commonwealth to true independence.



The subtler reasons for action in Somalia

By Christopher Whalen

LIKE THE slow economy and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), U.S. military intervention in Somalia was not Bill Clinton's idea. He inherited the situation from the Bush administration, which itself was unsure whether troops should be sent into that war-torn shell of a country.

But even now, informed analysts say, the White House does not fully appreciate why it is in Somalia and the grave regional political consequences of a hasty withdrawal.

What most Americans, including White House policymakers, may not fully understand is that the situation in Somalia is being exacerbated by America's old enemy in the Middle East — Iran.

Many observers accept that U.S. intervention in Somalia was spurred by George Bush's avowed "humanitarian concerns" or even a cynical attempt to prepare the American public for eventual involvement in Bosnia's genocidal war.

The United States is in Somalia for other reasons, too — the same geopolitical reasons that persuaded Mr. Bush to go to war against Saddam Hussein: to protect the increasingly isolated Saudi Arabian monarchy from the combined threat of Iranian military and political power and Islamic fundamentalism.

This time, "humanitarian assistance" became the sole label for the latest intervention, an intervention that follows a long tradition of American defence for European interests. As Charles Callan Tansil wrote in his classic 1952 book, "Back Door to War": "The main objective in American foreign policy since

1900 has been the preservation of the British empire."

One former Cabinet official in the Carter administration notes that the Bush administration wanted to be seen "doing something" about Somalia. This official, a longtime student of the region, says continued instability in eastern Somalia was viewed as a long-term threat to Saudi Arabia and the major interest of America's principal allies — namely Gulf oil.

Since the British withdrawal from its naval base at Aden in 1967, safeguarding against threats in the Horn of Africa has been left to the United States. Veteran Middle East-watchers say Iran today is "firmly entrenched" in war-ravaged Sudan and has established guerrilla training bases there directly across the Red Sea from Saudi Arabia.

These bases in Sudan, according to State Department spokesman Michael McCurry, were used to train the supposedly "untrained militia" that badly wounded American Rangers forces.

In actuality, warlord Mohammad Farrah Aideded's men are a well-trained and motivated light-infantry force that operates with support from Iran and elsewhere.

Given the resurgence of Iran's regional military and political influence, it should surprise few Washington observers that the financial and logistical support for Aideded, who was trained in Soviet and Warsaw Pact war colleges, is coming in part from Tehran. U.S. officials concede several Somali factions receive support from Sudan, which in turn maintains links with Iran.

During the Reagan and later Bush administrations, Iranian expansion was held in check by its long war with Iraq and other

less-obvious means, including a de-facto embargo on foreign loans and on arms shipments by most (but not all) major producers.

Today, analysts believe Iran is fast rebuilding its military capability even as its covert ties throughout the region grow faster. One former U.S. intelligence operative in the region told me Iran has purchased "several dozen" Russian-made nuclear artillery shells from former Soviet army units in Kazakhstan.

"They don't yet have the capability to deliver these weapons," he told me, "but they have them and they will very quickly figure out a way to use them."

The rising coercive power of Tehran — and the subordinate position of the OPEC cartel's largest oil producer — could be observed at the latest OPEC meeting last month at which Saudi Arabia agreed to limit production to 8 million barrels per day, while other members, including Iran and Kuwait, were effectively given increased quotas.

Indeed, press reports say the OPEC accord was finalised only after "consultation" among Iran, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, elevating the second-tier Iranians to full-partner status with OPEC's two largest, long-term producers.

Without a strong U.S. military and political presence in the Gulf to counter the obvious ambitions of Iran, Saudi Arabia's position at the OPEC bargaining table is weakened to the detriment of the interests of the industrialised nations and the long-term OPEC oil producers.

Somalia presents Bill Clinton with the same political threat that Jimmy Carter faced in Iran unless he soon manages to extricate U.S. ground forces

or — less probably — uses a more realistic justification for their presence. In this regard, it is notable the Iranians and British are leaving the scene as U.S. military involvement grows.

Comparisons between America's role in Somalia in 1993 and the American "exchange" of responsibility with the French in Vietnam is more than coincidental, particularly given the ultimate lure exerted by oil.

As in Vietnam, America is in the position of defending a weakening regime (Saudi Arabia) that cannot survive in its own increasingly dangerous neighbourhood.

Yet fiscal realities and a shift in the American political mood point to a decline in U.S. willingness to send the children of Carolina farmers and Michigan factory workers to fight and die in places like Somalia for objectives their leaders cannot even define.

As the United States withdraws militarily from Somalia, the Saudis may be forced to capitulate to further Iranian demands at the OPEC negotiating table and elsewhere, a development that can only exacerbate the kingdom's deteriorating financial and political situation.

For Washington, the long-term results of an eventual disengagement from Somalia may suggest an unlikely irony closer to home. Ten years from now, we may all rue the fact that Bush and then Clinton failed to push for redevelopment of new, secure energy sources in this hemisphere — particularly in Mexico through NAFTA — at a time when America's ability and willingness to project military power in the Gulf was gradually declining — The Washington Post.



GoldStar Company Ltd. holds regional strategic conference in Amman

Jordan's economic, political stability and strategic position make it ideal regional centre

Manufacturing the first Jordanian car is our next target

GoldStar Company Ltd. of South Korea, in cooperation with the Middle East Engineering and Electronics Industries Co. Ltd. (GoldStar Jordan) held the company's regional strategic conference for Middle East branches in Amman between Oct. 25 and 28, 1993, in order to lay down a joint strategy for GoldStar and chart the company's plans for 1994.

The conference was attended by a large number of officials from GoldStar branch offices and factories in the Middle East, Africa and Korea.

The conference sought to stimulate GoldStar Jordan and promote its role as a regional centre acting for the mother company in Korea. It also studied a number of expansion projects aimed at ensuring further investments in Jordan and expanding the industrial base for GoldStar Jordan.

At the end of the meeting, Darwish Khalili and Sons Company (GoldStar Jordan) addressed a press conference at the Amman Marriott Hotel Wednesday in order to acquaint the public with the latest progress achieved by Jordanian talent and skill in electrical and electronic industries and to display Jordan's capability to acquire and absorb advanced world experience.

K.S. Shin, executive director for Middle East and Africa operations of GoldStar Company, addressed the media expressing his delight at the occasion, noting that he had addressed the press in Amman last April in the presence of GoldStar board Chairman YONG IK ROW who was here to celebrate the first anniversary of GoldStar in Jordan and mark the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers.

"On his occasion, we will plan our work for our third year in Jordan, in cooperation with two other companies, with the purpose of promoting the electrical and electronic industry in Jordan," said Mr. Shin.

"We have decided that one of the subjects to be tackled at the regional conference should be a qualitative leap for GoldStar in Jordan," he added.

He said: "GoldStar Jordan has a number of industries and projects that rely on innovation which caters to the requirements of the daily life. The idea is based on the assumption that renovating the value of the GoldStar industry should not be done by focusing on sales but rather by providing the public with highly valuable products so that Jordanian citizens get accustomed with our products and our services."

"For this reason we are trying to achieve advanced efficiency in terms of planning and designing and in terms of production and manufacturing, in addition to management and transport, advertising and after sales services."

"It is for this reason that GoldStar delegations came to Amman, where they are meeting with Darwish Khalili Company (Middle East Engineering and Electronics Industries Co. Ltd.) and they are opening discussions on various topics related to production."

Strategy for 1994

Mr. Shin said: "Jordan GoldStar has four practical objectives that are being sought within our 1994 projects:

1 — A plan for local industrialisation and technological advance.

2 — Producing advanced types of refrigerators, among an assortment of other products.

3 — Studying the prospect of opening a research and development centre aimed at attaining high efficiency and excellent management.

4 — Catering to the requirements of the new markets and the consumers needs.

"For these reasons, we plan to create a new power for GoldStar Jordan so that its products would cater to the changes in the local Jordanian markets and markets abroad and we will do our best to boost our unique performance in presenting advanced industrial electronic and electrical products, to expand our employment power and satisfy the consumers' appetite."

"I believe that we will be the company number one in electronics, backed by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and together with the Jordanian government and people."

"I hope that you, people of the press, will give constant backing to the GoldStar Jordan for a better and more prosperous future."

Address by Mustafa Darwish Khalili, board chairman of the Middle East Engineering and Electronics Industries Co. Ltd.

"In light of the economic and political stability in Jordan, the board chairman of GoldStar Korea who visited Jordan twice so far and received from King Hussein the Jordanian Medal of Independence of the First Order, decided to hold the company's Middle East regional strategic conference in Amman between Oct. 25 and 28, 1993."

"The conference gave the go-ahead to the company to carry out GoldStar's plans which call for exporting GoldStar Jordan products to a number of markets abroad."

"The decision was taken also for the commencement of an intensive programme of training courses, to be held in Korea, benefitting all the technical and managerial staff employed by

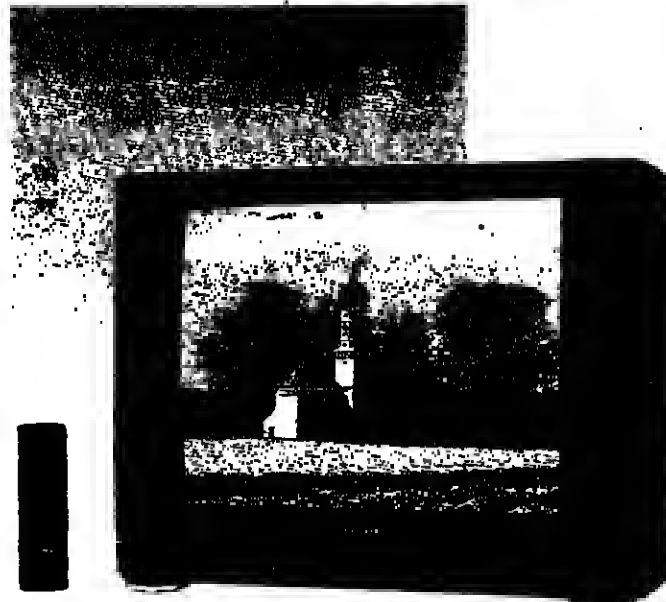
GoldStar Jordan and acquainting them with the mother company's equipment and technology for the year 2000.

"The Middle East GoldStar plants have already started marketing a new product, gas-operated heaters, of three models. The company has also started marketing its new product Acma anti-frost refrigerator of high quality specifications."

"The company has concluded deals for exporting numerous products to France, the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union, Tunisia, and Lebanon. The company will start establishing a new centre for research and development in electronics with the assistance of the mother company in Korea. This will be the first centre of its kind in the Middle East."

chosen Darwish Khalili and Sons Company to represent us in Jordan because we found that their company has great ambitions for serious work and for developing the electronic industry in Jordan, and also because the Jordanian people are well educated and diligent and seek to attain further advances," said Mr. Shin.

The Jordanian people, he said, "proved to be able to cope with and absorb modern world technology and for this reason we have achieved rapid, unprecedented progress, thanks to the genuine cooperation between Darwish Khalili Company and GoldStar Company, based on brotherly ties and backed by the Jordanian government which is helping the advancement of industry and investments," he said.



Answering the press

Mr. Shin, Mr. Khalili and Mohammad Darwish Khalili, vice chairman of the board of GoldStar Jordan, answered a number of questions addressed by journalists.

In reply to a question to Mr. Shin, on the reasons behind choosing Jordan as the site for a GoldStar regional centre for the Middle East, he said that Jordan, despite its small population, has an important, strategic location in the Middle East.

"The Kingdom has a central geographical location and enjoys economic security and stability, thanks to King Hussein's wise leadership."

"GoldStar company has

Prospects for Jordanian industry

Referring to the prospects of developing Jordanian industry, bearing in mind that Korea, Taiwan and others have started with assembly industry before advancing towards the present level, Mr. Shin said that electronics industries require accuracy, flexibility and diligence.

"I can see that the Jordanian manpower is trained, ambitious and highly educated, and all this helps the country's future development and the development of its industry into a fully integrated national industry, catering to the world standards and competing with the industries of the

advanced industrial nations. This of course requires support and encouragement from the government, as was the case in industrial countries like Japan, Korea and Taiwan."

"Expansion of the electronic industry should be vertical and not horizontal, and this can not happen without backing and direction from the state," said Mr. Shin.

Comparing the Korean industry to those of Europe, the United States and Japan, Mr. Shin said: "These nations are ahead of us in industry, and yet Korean industrial products have invaded European markets for years and we have overcome the difficulties of competing with the foreign products."

Cutting down unemployment

Mr. Mustafa Darwish Al Khalili, board chairman of GoldStar Jordan, outlined to the press his company's role in reducing the rate of unemployment in the country by pointing out that GoldStar Jordan employs 500 workers, engineers, officials and technicians.

"GoldStar has the capability of operating automatic production lines that would reduce the number of workforce, yet we set up production lines that would absorb the greatest number of workers so as to contribute to stemming the unemployment in the country," he said.

Mr. Khalili said that GoldStar Jordan has been cooperating with the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped and creating jobs for handicapped people, enabling them to make a decent living.

On the role of GoldStar in developing Jordanian industry, Mr. Khalili said: "We have regular programmes which entail dispatching Jordanian technicians and management officials on advanced training courses in Korea where they can inspect advanced production methods and factory management."

"We have been cooperating with Jordanian universities and experts and our Korean partners to develop a kind of television set with a built-in decoder for satellite transmissions," added Mr. Khalili.

He said there is close cooperation between GoldStar Jordan and GoldStar

Korea in maintaining and ensuring the company's high quality products.

"To do this, we send samples of our products to Korea periodically, for inspection, and we arrange for regular visits by Korean experts to inspect our progress in Jordan."

History of GoldStar Jordan

Mr. Mohammad Darwish Khalili, vice chairman of the GoldStar Company Jordan, referring to the early days of the company and its earlier production, said that the company first assembled refrigerators of different sizes responding to various world specifications.

"During King Hussein's visit to GoldStar Company's wing at the Jordanian Industrial fair, we promised the King to set up a television plant to serve the Jordanian people's needs and to reduce the prices and to create jobs," he said.

"Later we started producing video sets and following the King's second visit, and in keeping with the GoldStar board chairman's promise, we started developing refrigerators and we produced no-frost multi-flow for air distribution and infra-red system, a system which operates safely preserving foodstuff in good condition, in the refrigerator," said Mr. Khalili.

"Later, we began producing washing machines, which are now filling the Jordanian markets and are successful due to their high quality," he said, adding that in the coming month, "we will embark on a second phase of television production which entails producing a new system with Arabic language programme."

With a view to offering

better services, the company is now producing three models of gas heaters, each equipped with an oxygen combustion safety system as well as Fujika kerosene heaters, according to Mr. Khalili.

He said: "We produce general products which cater to the taste of all citizens and are of reasonable prices. These products have in fact become a life necessity. We pledge to continue working hard and diligently, remain loyal to King Hussein and Prince Hassan and to serve the Jordanian society and the National economy."

According to Mr. Khalili, the GoldStar Company, Jordan started exporting refrigerators in 1990, first to the former Soviet Union where they won the first prize.

Mr. Khalili said that GoldStar Company Jordan is now in the process of concluding deals with Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Lebanon for exporting products.

He said: "We look forward to selling our products to Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan and Yemen."

"In fulfillment of our promise to His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian government, which has provided us all kinds of support and protection, we are proud to relay the good news to King Hussein and the Jordanian people that a serious study to manufacture the first Jordanian car has been carried out, with support from and under the concession of International Automobile Manufacturers."

"The company will also provide all the requirements needed for this project (including approximately 500 dunums of land. The project will employ some 1,500 workers during its initial stages," concluded Mr. Khalili.

Why is GoldStar the right choice?

So what makes GoldStar the right choice for your electronic needs? We feel that it has to do with our trademark. "Technology with the human touch." We are doing our utmost to develop new technologies and new products that will improve your life and better society. But we don't stop there. We give that technology a human touch. By that we mean it is aesthetically attractive and it is easy to use. We want to help you get more out of life. That is why GoldStar is so popular, and why we've not only survived the last 35 years, but excelled. It is hard to believe, how far we have come. It certainly is rags to riches story from the humble beginnings of making simple radios to making almost every electronic product under the sun. Just imagine what we'll be doing tomorrow!



Japan's unemployment rate rises as economic slide continues

jobs available for every 100 demands. The Asahi Bank said in a recent report that almost two-thirds of the unemployed were not counted in Japan. With the "hidden unemployment" in companies, the real figure was around 6.5 per cent of the workforce, about 2.5 million people.

Defenders of the 'jobs for life' tradition in Japan, companies in fact do not lay off staff when the market is slack and continue to pay those — many of them aged 50 and over — for whom they have no


We expect the CS to gradually take back losses incurred since March as the market is reassured by Favourable news regarding the federal deficit and liberal policies in general. Offsetting this positive factor, however, is our view that short-term rates will fall by 45 basis points in the near term, a development neither priced into the yield curve nor forecast by the consensus. Our 12-month target is CS/U.S.\$ 1.24.

advanced activities but you would be unwise to commit yourself, although studying such is good.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Vatanen wins Hong Kong-Beijing Rally

BEIJING (R) — Former world champion Ari Vatanen of Finland Friday scored a "come-from-behind" victory in the Hong Kong to Beijing Motor Rally, with fellow Subaru professionals taking second and third places. Vatanen, who took the lead in Thursday's penultimate section after trailing most of the 3,865-kilometre rally, roared up to the Great Wall outside Beijing in a winning time of five hours 13 minutes 40 seconds. "I'm very glad to win," Vatanen said after parading with the other finishers into central Tiananmen Square past huge crowds of mystified Chinese. "The route was not very tough, but the stops were very long. After my Subaru Legacy got problems and lost five seconds on the second leg, I knew I had to try very hard to regain the lead. But that made the victory taste sweeter," the 41-year-old winner said, sipping a victory glass of milk as others uncorked champagne. Vatanen's professional Subaru teammates Colin McRae of Scotland and Possum Bourne of New Zealand took second and third places respectively.

Limoges beaten by Barcelona

LONDON (R) — Champions Limoges started the defence of their European Champion Clubs' basketball title inauspiciously Thursday when they lost their opening game of the semifinal series. The French were tied 71-71 with in-form Barcelona at the end of normal time in Spain but finally succumbed 86-76. The Spaniards had let a nine-point early lead slip away at halftime as Limoges led 34-33. Richard Dacoury, at 34 the oldest player on the court, then joined forces with Michael Young to widen the gap for Limoges in the opening minutes of the second half. But Barcelona's powerful response came courtesy of Andres Jimenez who scored seven times in a row to help level matters and in extra time they found more than the French. Federico Roberts also sparked for Barcelona with 25 points. Predictably, top scorers for the titleholders were the two Youngs, Michael with 34 and Danny on 13.

Turkey beat Poland 2-1

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey registered a rare victory beating Poland 2-1 to significantly raise Dutch beliefs that they will be heading for next year's World Cup finals at England's expense. Turkey, with only a victory over whipping boys San Marino in earlier World Cup Group 2 qualifiers, came from behind to score their first victory over the Poles since 1971. Goals by Hakan Sukur in the 57th minute and Bulent Uygur in the 72nd wiped out the 16th-minute lead Wojciech Kowalczyk gave Poland. The result will convince the Dutch that they can achieve the point they need from their visit to Poland in their last World Cup qualifier next month to guarantee a place in the U.S.A. '94 finals. England need Poland to beat the Netherlands while putting at least seven goals past San Marino to qualify ahead of the Dutch along with group winners Norway.

Jet lag sets in for Magic, Hawks

LONDON (AP) — Mookie Blaylock wasn't in the mood to shoot hoops. The Atlanta Hawks guard had just made his first trip across the Atlantic Ocean. He said little sleep on the team's all-night flight, was whisked by bus to the hotel to drop off his bags, then back out to a gymnasium in west London. And now he had to practice. "You'll probably see some feet walking in mud today," Blaylock said. "Probably a little heavy. Hopefully we can get motivated." Blaylock and the Hawks play the Orlando Magic in a pair of exhibition games at Wembley Arena this weekend — the first time two NBA teams have played each other in Europe. Both clubs lumbered through light workouts after arriving in town early Thursday. When it came time to meet the press, the players were more than happy to collapse in their chairs as a horde of British reporters clustered around the one star they all knew — Orlando centre Shaquille O'Neal.

Russia has until Monday to pay fine

MOSCOW (R) — The International Weightlifting Federation has given Russia until Monday to pay a \$50,000 fine or face a year-long ban from competition because of a doping scandal, the Russian federation chief said Friday. Viktor Polyakov told Reuters his federation had already found \$20,000 and would be asking the Russian Olympic Committee (NOC) to help out. But judging from a report in the daily Sovetsky Sport newspaper the NOC is not keen to be linked with the fund-raising effort to ensure Russia, one of the top weightlifting countries, attends next month's World Championships. "We only want clean medals," Friday's edition of the daily quoted NOC President Vitaly Smirnov as saying. Mr. Polyakov said this was just an opening gambit and he was confident of NOC support. The NOC could not be reached for comment.

S. Arabia, S. Korea qualify for World Cup finals

DOHA (Agencies) — Asia's soccer giant, South Korea, and the world's top oil producer, Saudi Arabia, qualified for the 1994 World Cup and pledged to give powerhouses Europe and Latin America some tough new competition.

"Time has come to show that Asian nations can also do well," South Korean coach Kim Ho said Thursday. "From now on we are exactly going to do that."

Since its first World Cup bid in 1954 in Switzerland ended in humiliating defeats, South Korea has continued its build-up, making it one of Asia's leaders.

Confidence increased after South Korea represented Asia in World Cup championships in 1986 and again in 1990.

But since 1990, many Korean fans have turned to professional baseball, making it the nation's most popular sport.

Soccer officials hope South Korea's third straight World Cup appearance will boost their efforts to rekindle a soccer boom.

"We go to America with new talent, new tactics — a blend of Asian, Latin American and European football," said an elated Saudi Arabian coach Mohammed Al Khirashi. Asia, with 56 per cent of the world's population, has shown little bright soccer talent and Asian nations have not advanced far in the World Cup round-robin finals.

In Doha, capital of the tiny state of Qatar, the last Asian qualification day was not without dramas.

Japan, a favourite to make it to the world's best soccer show, fell short by allowing a goal with seconds left in its

game against Iraq.

As Swiss referee Serge Muhmenthaler blew the final whistle, some Japanese players and about a 1,000 fans started weeping hysterically. Others were stunned into silence. Tears rolled down the eyes of Kazuyoshi Miura, Japan's best player.

Japan's 2-2 tie with Iraq dropped the Japanese into third place below South Korea.

Iraq, Iran and North Korea, three teams the United States hoped would not qualify for the 24-team tournament next summer, finished fourth, fifth and sixth.

Saudi Arabia (2-0-3) beat Iran 4-3 to finish with seven points and earn its first trip to the finals.

"First thing I did was look at heaven and I thanked Allah," said Saudi coach Al Khirashi. "Now we can say, 'here we come, America.'"

South Korea (2-1-2) beat Peninsula rival North Korea 3-0 and qualified for the finals for the third straight time. South Korea scored nine goals and gave up four, while Japan (2-1-2) scored seven and gave up four.

"I could not speak for several minutes, so high was my emotion," said Kim, the South Korean coach, who had come under severe criticism at home for losing to Japan in an earlier game.

Japan, which has never qualified for the World Cup but is the favourite to play host to the tournament in 2002, lost out when Iraqi Air Force technician Jaffar Omran scored the equaliser.

The results probably set off a huge sigh of relief at World Cup USA Headquarters in Los Angeles. There had been concern whether the U.S. government would issue the necessary visas if either Iraq, Iran or North Korea had qualified.

Iraq is under United Nations sanctions, Iran is a bitter U.S. foe and North Korea has feuded with the American government over nuclear arms.

Despite assurances from the Reagan administration in 1988 that the U.S. would impose no hindrance to qualifying teams, State Department officials were quoted this week as saying they could not guarantee visas to Iraq.

Iraq gained a public relations windfall by holding Japan to a 2-2 draw on the final day of Asian qualifying competition.

The Iraqi embassy in Seoul said it was swamped Friday with telephone calls from South Korean soccer fans saying "thank you" and applauding the fighting spirit of Iraqi soccer players.

Embassy officials said they hope the World Cup results will contribute to improved relations between Iraq and South Korea, which remain estranged because of the Gulf War.

During the war, South Korea sided with the United States in condemning Iraq and dispatched military units to join the allied forces.

South Korea, confirming its recently shaky reputation as Asia's soccer giant, was in party mood Friday after clinching the third successive berth in the World Cup finals in non-biting fashion.

The trip to next year's finals in the United States was made all the sweeter for being at the expense of bitter rival Japan, which has been striving to capture the mantle of Asia's premier



Iraqi striker Jaffar Omran (right) attempts to head the ball during the Asian World Cup qualifying match in Doha Thursday (AFP photo)

mier soccer nation from South Korea.

"Heaven was on our side," blared Friday's Sports Chosun tabloid.

"It was the most heart-stopping moment in my life. I am mad with joy. We must thank Iraq for our team's victory," a 30-year-old avid soccer fan said.

"I was just about to turn off the television and go to bed in despair. But there was a miracle and God saved us from hell," he said. "Mansei (long live) Korea and Iraq."

Seoul's streets were deserted Thursday night while the final Asian qualifying match was being shown on television live from Doha.

The late hour and a midnight curfew on drinking establishments prevented any immedi-

ate celebration, but normally silent residential districts rang with the cheers of couch-potato fans unable to believe the nation's luck.

President Kim Young-Sam was one of the first to congratulate the nation's soccer players.

"Our people and I send congratulations to the team in their great achievement of reaching the World Cup finals for the third successive time," Mr. Kim said in a cable sent to South Korean coach.

Japan woke up from their World Cup nightmare Friday to face a snowballing challenge from South Korea to stage the finals in 2002.

FIFA have stated that the 2002 World Cup will most likely be held in Asia and last week FIFA general secretary,

Sepp Blatter, said during a visit here that Japan were almost half way on the road to staging the finals and would be difficult to catch.

But Japan's failure to book a place in the finals has shifted the focus.

"We will work hard to bring the 2002 World Cup to Korea," said Chung Mong-Joon, president of the South Korea Football Association.

"We will tell people we have qualified for the World Cup three times consecutively and four times in all. Japan have never been there."

Mr. Chung, who also heads the heavy industry division of South Korean conglomerate Hyundai, added that a joint bid with North Korea was a possibility.

Turner optimistic about future Goodwill Games

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Television mogul Ted Turner conceded Friday that his company has lost millions of dollars staging the Goodwill Games, but said they offer a "psychic value" that can't be calculated.

Besides, he said, they're fun. "This gives me an opportunity to be around the jocks, shake a few hands, that sort of thing," Turner said in a relaxed, wide-ranging hour-long interview.

"If I go to the Olympics, I'm sitting up a hundred rows back with everybody else. At the Goodwill Games I've got seats on the front row."

The third Goodwill Games are planned for next summer, from July 23 to Aug. 7 in St. Petersburg, which will play host to 2,000 athletes from more than 50 countries for the 16-day Olympic style event. New York has been picked for the 1998 games.

The first two games — in Moscow in 1986 and Seattle in 1990 — lost an estimated \$50 million to \$60 million between them. Goodwill Games President Jack Kelly expressed hope that next year's games would break even.

But Turner, chairman of Cable News Network's parent company, Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., said he was taking a broader view.

"So far the games have lost money," he said, during a brief visit to Russia with his wife, actress Jane Fonda, to promote the games and meet with government leaders.

"It's very hard when you're in the media business, or in any kind of show business, to know (about losses). Sometimes you get a lot of psychic value out of doing something that doesn't show in the bottom line when that individual project is looked at."

Kristiansen thinks Chinese will slash marathon record

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (R) — Norwegian Ingrid Kristiansen believes one of China's elite women-distance runners will slash her world marathon best by six minutes in Sunday's World Cup.

Kristiansen set the present mark of two hours 21 minutes six seconds in the 1985 London marathon and only the 1984 Olympic champion Joan Benoit has subsequently come within a minute of that time.

But, by midday Sunday here Kristiansen fully expects the record to belong to any one of five Chinese women.

"I think the record will be broken by the Chinese," she said this week. "I think it will be two hours 15 minutes. I won't be surprised if something like that happens."

In five days last month the Chinese revolutionised women's distance running fol-

lowing their three track golds at the Stuttgart World Championships.

At an epochal national championships in Beijing's Workers' Stadium, Wang Junxia took nearly 42 seconds off Kristiansen's world 10,000 record then went on to break the world 3,000 mark by more than 15 seconds. In the meantime Qu Yunxia broke the world 1,500 record by just over two seconds.

Both Wang and Qu will run here along with Zhang Linli, Zhang Lilong and Ma Liyan — bringing together the five fastest women in history over 3,000 metres.

Ma Junren, coach of the famous five, has downplayed speculation about a world best here.

"This is their first national marathon and they are very tired so I don't have very high hopes for their performance,"

he said before the Chinese left for Spain.

"I think they will be lucky to break three hours."

The startling Chinese successes, and in particular Ma's claim that his athletes ran a marathon a day for a six-month training period, have sparked inevitable speculation about the possible use of drugs.

Wang and Qu each passed drugs tests in Stuttgart and again at the National Championships and their world records have been ratified. Ma

has been quoted as saying that in 24 years of running and teaching he has never even seen a drug.

Kristiansen has her doubts and says her body could not handle the amount of kilometres covered by the Chinese.

"I'm not sure they use normal ways of training," she said. "I'm afraid that what they're using is not allowed."

"The 10,000 record was there to be broken — but by 40 seconds?"

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BREAKING THE DEFENDERS' HEARTS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 8 7 6
♥ 8 2
♦ Q J 3
♣ J 2

WEST
♠ Q 9 8
♥ 9
♦ 10 9 5
♣ K 9 7 5 4 3

EAST
♠ 10 2
♥ Q J 7 3
♦ 6 4 2
♣ A Q 10 6

SOUTH
♠ 5 4
♥ A K 10 8 5 4
♦ A K 8 7
♣ 8

The bidding:
South 1♥ West 1♠ North 1♠ East 1♠
3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
5♥ Pass 6♥ Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠. You can afford to bid aggressively only if you, or partner, have the skill to play the spade off the cards. To illustrate this hand from the Fall North American Championships in Orlando, Fla.,

Most players who know would have been content to lead spades or raise three hearts to spur with the North

hand. Instead, North chose to show the diamond fragment and then, with trusting faith in partner's ability, pressed on to slam when South raised diamonds.

West led a club and South, Kay Latourneau of West Palm Beach, Fla., would have been happy to sell her contract for a mass of potage. The defenders gave declarer some aid by winning the ace of clubs and continuing the suit. Declarer ruffed in hand, crossed to the diamond queen and led a trump, inserting the ten when East followed low, which was the technically correct play. West's nine was both a relief and a warning.

Declarer re-entered dummy with the ace of spades for another heart lead, capturing East's jack with the king. A spade to the ace and a spade ruff established three spade winners on the table and declarer was now ready to pull off a sensational trump coup.

With the ace-eight of hearts poised over East's queen-seven, declarer entered dummy with the jack of diamonds and started running spades. No matter whether East chose to ruff or not, or when, the defenders were getting no more tricks.

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UNRWA field office, Amman announces that its telephone numbers will be changed as from 1st November 1993 to read as follows:
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Tel.: 677420
CONCORD '1'
QUICK CHANCE
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
CONCORD '2'
THUNDER HEART
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6, 8:15, 10:15

PLAZA
Tel.: 695238
Nour Sharif — Sabrin in
131 - WORKS
Arabic
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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EC leaders pledge fight for jobs, concern for people

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) leaders pledged Friday to relaunch their 12-nation bloc, promising to fight unemployment, work towards a single currency and bring Europe closer to its sceptical citizens.

They also took the first steps towards creating a common foreign policy with provisional agreements to work for peace and stability in Europe, the Middle East, South Africa and the former Yugoslavia.

The leaders were also poised to agree a controversial package of sites for EC agencies and looked likely to hand the coveted European Monetary Institute (EMI), the embryonic EC central bank, to Germany.

Complete agreement was being held up by Spain, which was unhappy with what it has been offered.

A draft declaration from a special summit, called to mark the coming into force on Monday of the Maastricht Treaty on European union, admits that the community has become distant from its citizens.

"There are large numbers of them for whom Europe seems far away, anonymous and unresponsive," a French-language version of the text says. "We want a Europe that is close to its citizens, limiting its interference to cases where it is necessary for the pursuit of common interests," it adds.

The draft reflects the leaders' public statements that it was time to do something to put the community back on track amid a grinding recession and rising unemployment.

"We have to show our peoples that we are collectively addressing their needs," British Prime Minister John Major told his colleagues. And their highest need is to see all Europe moving out of recession, all Europe creating new jobs."

The leaders said they were determined to put the Maas-

tricht Treaty into practice. The draft conclusion reaffirmed the EC's goals for a single currency by the end of the century.

It made no mention, however, of 1997 as the possible date for a single currency — a tacit admission that the European Community's economic problems and monetary turmoil have made that target unreachable.

Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen urged the assembled leaders to show that the treaty was relevant to the EC's citizens. He found proof in the streets outside.

"The demonstrations we see in Brussels today are a sign that European politicians must take clear decisions," Mr. Rasmussen told reporters.

Belgium's transport system was crippled by a strike on Friday, while tens of thousands of unionists demonstrated against government proposals to end Belgium's economic crisis.

The EC leaders were also set to approve a series of modest steps to stimulate growth, to be followed by more concrete proposals at a regularly scheduled summit in December.

These include making more types of growth- and job-creating projects eligible for cash from an eight billion European currency unit (\$9.2 billion) lending fund set up by the EC last year. They will also agree to provide more subsidised loans for small businesses, he said.

Despite the attempts of most leaders to show optimism, French President Francois Mitterrand offered a sobering reminder about some of the difficulties facing the continent.

"We are confronted by ethnic massacres which could turn into regional wars. There is a serious risk of a European conflict at the beginning of the next century," his spokesman quoted him as saying. "There is reality and reality tempers my optimism."

Christopher delays Mideast mission

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected to delay a proposed Mideast trip until after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin meets President Bill Clinton in Washington, U.S. officials and diplomats said Thursday.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that while the date is not yet firm, efforts were being made to arrange talks at the White House between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Clinton on Nov. 12.

Mr. Christopher, who returned from Russia and other former Soviet republics Thursday night, was contemplating a trip to the Middle East late next week.

But the sources said it now looked like he might journey to the region later in November or in early December.

The goal is to try to convene a new round of Mideast peace talks in early December, one diplomatic source told Reuters.

There has been some confusion about the future of the talks since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) used a secret channel to negotiate their own agreement, which was signed in Washington Sept. 13.

Syria Wednesday renewed a threat to boycott the next round of Middle East peace talks with Israel, saying it was strong enough to avoid giving any concessions.

Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa told a seminar for leaders of the ruling Baath Party that co-sponsors Washington and Moscow should not issue invitations to a 13th round of talks until Israel committed itself to withdraw fully from the occupied Golan Heights.

State Department spokesman David Johnson, asked about Mr. Christopher's travel plans, told reporters that "at the appropriate time in the not too distant future some determination on his travel plans will be made."

He noted that "there may be some bilateral meetings in Washington in the next short while."

U.S. special Mideast coordinator Dennis Ross recently returned from the region and apparently found the time was not quite ripe for a visit by Mr. Christopher.

In a related matter, the United States Thursday reiterated its demand that an Arab boycott of Israel be lifted.

In an interview in Thursday's editions of the Wall Street Journal, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak suggested the United States refrain from pressing Arab states too hard to end the boycott, saying such pressure could cause a public backlash that would complicate the peace effort.

Asked about that, the State Department said in a statement "we remain firmly committed to achieving an end to the boycott and are pressing publicly and in diplomatic channels for progress towards that goal."

"While it is true the boycott is not strictly observed by all Arab League countries, it does continue to be an obstacle to peace and economic cooperation in the region," it added.



DEMOLITION: Palestinian children carry what was left of their belongings after the family house was demolished by the Israeli army in the Nasserat refugee camp Friday. The army bombed the house of a wanted Palestinian activist Abu Haseba's (32) and arrested him with five other members of his family after they found weapons in the place (AFP photo)

U.S. says Haitian military won battle, will lose war

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — The United States acknowledged Friday that Haiti's military leaders had prevented ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide from returning home on time, but added that they would eventually be ousted.

"The military may have won a battle this time, but they haven't won the war," said U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger, acknowledging that Mr. Aristide would not return to Haiti on Saturday as required by an accord signed in July by Mr. Aristide and Haitian army chief, General Raoul Cedras.

Mr. Schragger also indicated that the United States was not entirely comfortable with Mr. Aristide's demand that all top-ranking military officers resign, rather than just Gen. Cedras and Port-au-Prince police chief Joseph-Michel Francois as called for by the Governors Island accord.

Mr. Aristide had said that if they resigned, he would summon the legislature to ratify an amnesty for the military.

U.N. envoy Dante Caputo also expressed disagreement with the demand. The United States and the United Nations are Mr. Aristide's most powerful backers.

Gen. Cedras also rejected the expanded demand for resignations, saying it "violated" the accord and Haiti's constitution.

Mr. Schragger agreed, saying the demand went beyond the Governors Island agreement.

Asked about Mr. Aristide's speech to the United Nations, Mr. Schragger also distanced himself from Mr. Aristide's request for a "total and complete" blockade of Haiti to enforce a tougher embargo.

The United Nations is considering adding all non-humanitarian goods to a fuel and arms embargo in place since Oct. 19.

Mr. Aristide has already issued an amnesty for Gen. Cedras and other military leaders involved in the 1991 coup that ended his seven months in office.

Also, Friday, the Haitian army denied allegations made in a U.S. Senate report that senior officials were heavily involved in drug trafficking.

The report quoted intelligence sources as directly linking police chief Francois to an estimated \$100 million a year in bribes paid for drug-trafficking and identified him as key government figure in the drug trade.

Fearing a shortage of fuel, army-backed political groups opposed to Mr. Aristide called a nationwide strike to press the government to seize foreign-owned gas depots. Most businesses were closed and traffic was sparse Friday.

Court ruling seen as victory for campaign, democracy

(Continued from page 1) was perfect," a former official said. "The court's swift handling of the case will also send the proper message to Jordanians."

In pre-democracy times, the judicial authority had a limited role and was intimidated by the executive authority whose administrative rulings were, in most cases, protected by the law, the well-informed former official explained.

When the Higher Court of Justice law was debated by the 11th Parliament "this protection was removed from the executive authority and its decisions became open to appeal in a court of law."

Most analysts also see a comforting message to political parties and bodies which will now be encouraged to exercise their right to democratic expression in the country and feel protected by the law.

The IAF over the weekend expressed satisfaction with the court's ruling describing it as a "victory for the law." Its lawyer, Zuhair Abu Ragheh, a member of the front's executive office, argued that the minister's authority is "fixed and not expansive" which was the argument that the court later adopted in supporting its ruling.

"People who felt intimidated by the government for

taking such measures as the ban on public rallies and had nearly lost faith in campaigning freely have been given a shot in the arm with this ruling," an analyst said.

Despite continued denials by the authorities, political parties, including the IAF and a number of leftist parties, had complained that the government had adopted a policy of limiting the strength of political bodies in the country and strengthen the hand of independent traditionalist candidates. They cite the adoption of the one-person, one-vote election law as the first in a series of measures that the government used to limit their strength in the next Parliament.

The government's immediate positive reaction to the court's ruling shows, according to most analysts, that the executive authority is willing to abide by the law, respect

the opinion of its judicial counterpart and accepts the rules of democracy.

The government's ban on public rallies, according to Mr. Hammad, was warranted by their assessment that these meetings "will affect security, stability and public safety."

In an interview with Jordan Television before the court's ruling, Mr. Hammad had explained that his decision to ban public rallies was "dictated by the law."

"We have a National Charter and a political parties law and an election law (whose articles) we abide by and will not allow anyone to skirt their regardless of their political orientation," Mr. Hammad added.

The Minister also explained that Article 61 of the election law banned election campaigning in public areas and places of prayer.

"We have allowed rallies in areas which are not run by the government, like reception halls, election headquarters of candidates, hotels and movie theatres," Mr. Hammad said.

The court, in explaining its ruling, described Mr. Hammad's decision as "restrictive of the public freedom as stipulated in the Constitution and the law, and therefore appeal is warranted and the (minister's) decision is in contravention of the law."

Islamists stage first election rally

(Continued from page 1)

CNN-CIA connection." The Cable News Network was not present at the rally. But Mr. Keilani took the opportunity to launch a monologue on the evils of Western television and their distortion of Islam.

"Why do Western television stations film all our rallies?" Mr. Keilani asked his audience of about 250 people. "Are we such a danger to them that they have to collect intelligence on us?"

Mr. Keilani attacked Israel

for what he claimed was a plan to exterminate the body of Palestinian war hero Izzeddin Al Qassam, after whom the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas is named. "The extermination and the insistence to keep crippled Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin in prison despite the release of other Palestinians political prisoners is not comprehensive," Mr. Keilani said.

"Are the Israelis so afraid of a dead man and a leader in wheelchair?" he asked.

Prosecution set back in trial of Iranians in Germany

BERLIN (AFP) — The main witness in a trial over the assassination of four Iranian Kurdish opposition leaders in a Berlin restaurant retracted his testimony Friday, shaking the public prosecutor's case against an Iranian and four Lebanese.

The trial, which is the first in the West involving an extremist act allegedly ordered by the Tehran regime, opened Thursday.

Yusef Amin, a 25-year-old Lebanese, said in a letter read out by the court that his earlier confession that he took part in the September 1992 attack was elicited under pressure from German police during initial questioning.

"All I said at the time was a lie," he wrote.

Mr. Amin's court-appointed lawyers said he and his family, who live in Lebanon, had probably received threats after his initial confession.

Information given by Mr. Amin led police to the other four defendants: Kazem Darabi, a 34-year-old Iranian believed to be an Iranian secret service agent, and three Lebanese, Atallah Ayad, 26, Mohammad Aris, 23, and Abbas Rhyael, 25.

The five are accused of assassinating the four Kurdish opposition leaders.

The charges, read out in court Friday, explicitly accuse the Iranian secret service of having ordered the Berlin attack in which four officials of the Iranian Kurdistan Democratic Party (PKDK), banned in Iran, were shot to death.

PKDK Secretary general Sadegh Sharafkandi and his colleagues were attending a Socialist International Congress in Berlin.

COLUMN

Clinton hats raise eyebrows

WASHINGTON (R) — Call it bad timing. Hours before he flew to New York to campaign for Democratic Mayor David Dinkins, President Bill Clinton sported a hat Thursday bearing the name of the mayor's Republican rival. His attempt to recover from the military mix-up later in the day by wearing a second cap referring to Mr. Dinkins didn't appear to be much of an improvement, however. The first cap was a gift from the producers of Rudy, a movie about a young man who beats the odds and earns a spot on the University of Notre Dame football team. No one at the White House apparently noticed that it was also the first name of Republican mayoral candidate Rudolph Giuliani, who is running neck-and-neck with the mayor. "I didn't realise... there might be some political connotation to that," Mr. Clinton said later at a New York rally for Mr. Dinkins. "When I learned that there was, I remembered that there was another movie made a few months ago that I also liked very much called Dave," he told the cheering crowd. Mr. Clinton then proceeded to put on a cap from that movie, which starred Kevin Kline as a well-meaning but not very bright man who doubles as the president. In an impassioned pro-Dinkins speech at a Union Hall in the Borough of Queens, Mr. Clinton said the mayor, who is the country's top black urban official, had made great progress in addressing his city's problems even though he got little help from the previous Republican administration in Washington.

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